erased
KEI SANBE
4

C O N T E N T S

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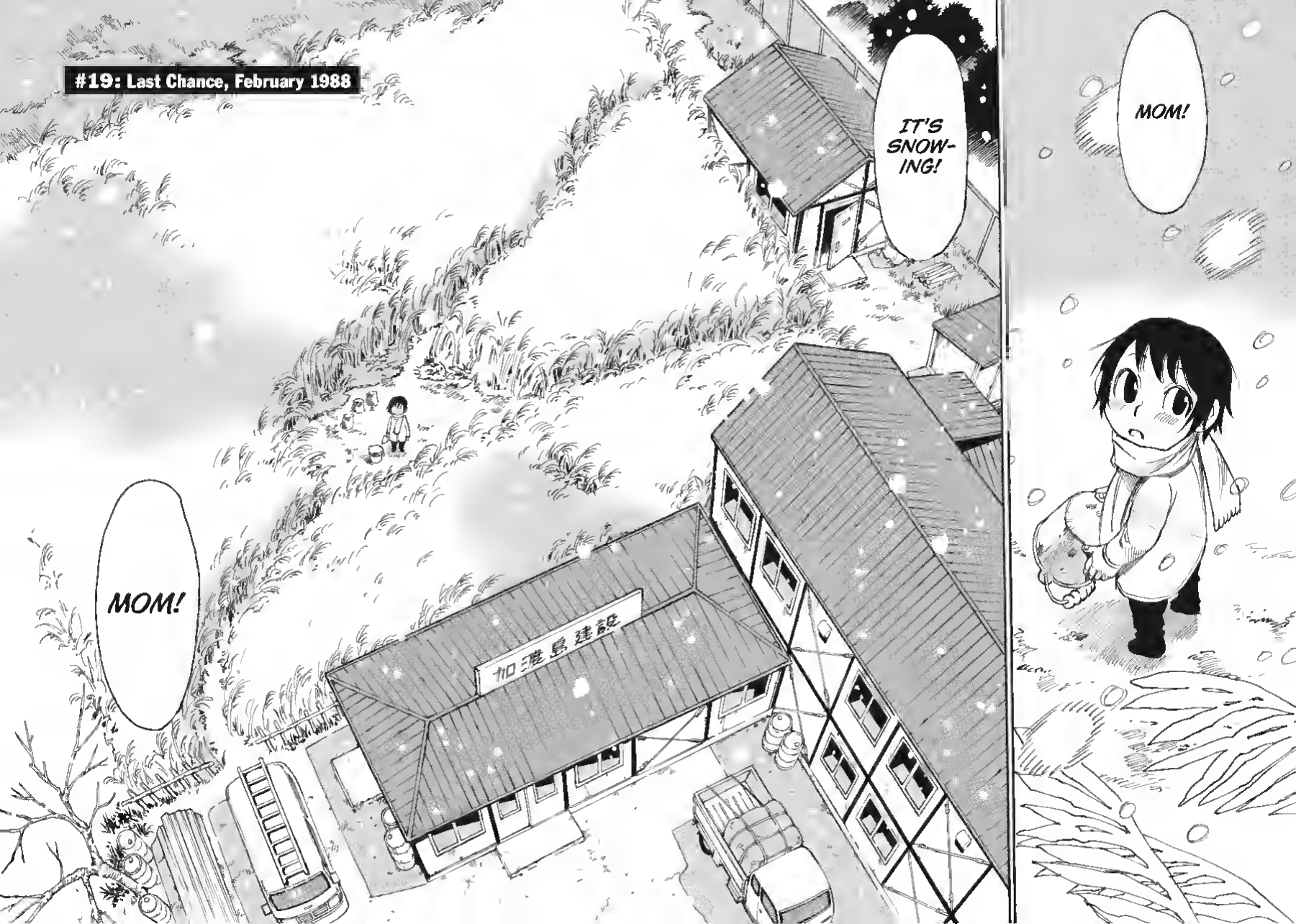
加渡島建設
SIGN: KATORIJIMA CONSTRUCTION
ZA
(SKSHH)
MOM!


#19: Last Chance, February 1988
IT'S SNOW-ING!
MOM!
MOM!
加藤息建設

...I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T COME DOWN.
EVEN AS I CALLED OUT TO MOM...
...BUT ALSO SO LONELY, THAT I JUST WANTED TO LET MOM KNOW
THE FALLING SNOW MADE ME SO HAPPY...
I THINK I HAD MIXED FEELINGS.
...ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ZEBRA GRASS.
I SAW A GIRL I KNEW...
I CAN'T REMEMBER HER FACE NOW.
I REMEMBER HER NAME WAS ATSUKO, AND SHE WAS EITHER IN FIRST OR SECOND GRADE.
AKKO-NEECHAN...

...WHILE I WAITED FOR MOM TO FINISH HER WORK.
WE OFTEN PLAYED TOGETHER TH...
FOR SOME REASON, IT FELT LIKE I'D LOST SOMETHING PRECIOUS.
HIS NAME IS TSUTOMU-KUN.
HE SAYS WE'RE GONNA GET MARRIED.
I LIKE ANOTHER BOY MORE THAN YOU.
SORRY, SATORU-CHAN.
ONE DAY, AKKO-NEECHAN SAID...
...I WENT LOOKING FOR THIS "TSUTOMU" KID THE NEXT DAY.
THINK-ING THUS...
IF THAT KID WEREN'T AROUND, I WOULD BE NUMBER ONE.

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WHY'S HE DRAGGING THAT BOARD AROUND...?
AW, LEAVE HIM, TSUTOMU.
HE'S JUST A LITTLE KID.
YOU'RE THE KID WHO'S ALWAYS ALONE IN THAT FIELD RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT?
YOU WANNA PLAY WITH US?
EVEN WITH MY CHILD'S MIND, I RECOGNIZED TSUTOMU AS MY SUPERIOR.
I REALIZED HOW CHILDISH ...
...POWERLESS ...
...AND SELFISH I WAS.
SATORU-CHAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
AFTER THAT DAY...
...AKKO-NEECHAN STOPPED COMING TO THE FIELD.

BUT SHE WAS THERE THAT DAY.
AFTER ALL THAT TIME, SHE'D COME BACK TO PLAY WITH ME.
OR SO I THOUGHT AS I RAN OVER.
AKKO-NEE-CHAN!
AKKO-NEE-CHAN!
HFF!
HFF!
AKKO-NEE-CHAN...
...WAS HEADING FOR A STORAGE SHED.

SOMEONE WAS INSIDE THE SHED.

I YELLED OUT AS A WAVE OF INDESCRIBABLE ANXIETY SWEPT OVER ME
...AND THE DOOR CLOSED
AFTER AKKO-NEECHAN ENTERED ...
LET'S PLAY!
AKKO-NEECHAN!!
NEECHAN!
LOOK!
LOOK WHAT I GOT!
SATORU-CHAN!
AKKO-NEECHAN CAME RIGHT OUT.
...AS SHE SHOWED ME THE CARDS
SHE LOOKED HAPPY...
SHE WAS HOLDING A NUMBER OF CARDS

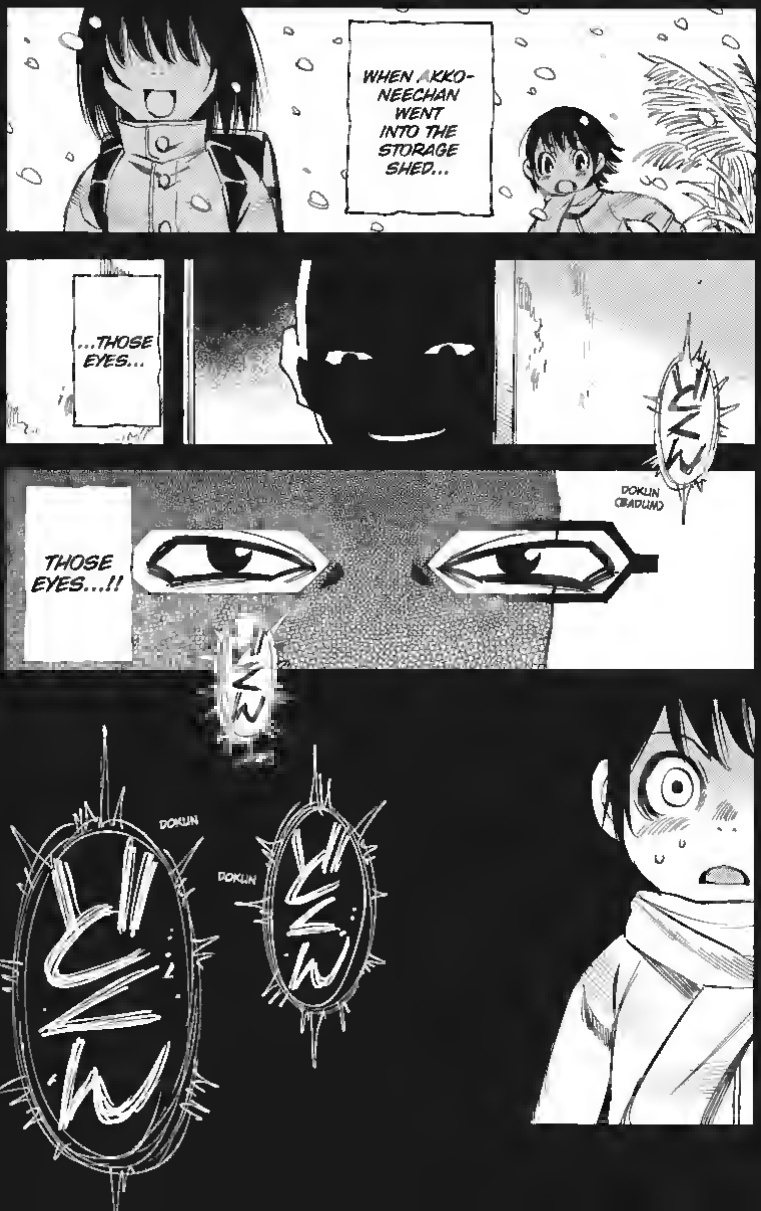
SATORU-CHAN...
YOUR HANDS ARE COLD.
DID YOU FORGET...
...YOUR GLOVES?
SHE SQUEEZED MY HAND.
HER SMILE WAS THE SAME AS I REMEMBERED.
A YOUNG EMPLOYEE CAME OUT OF THE OFFICE
HEY, KIDS...
IT'S FREEZIN' OUTSIDE.
WARM UP IN HERE.
HE LET US IN.
THAT'S LUCKY.
YEAH!

UNIFORM: KATORIJIMA CONSTRUCTION

I HATED AND FEARED THE COMPANY'S PRESIDENT...
...TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE.
...WHO WAS QUICK ...
I OUGHTA KILL YOU.
I-I'M SORRY..
THEY CAN STAY HERE, BUT IT'S THE LAST TIME.
THE YOUNG GUY WHO GOT PUNCHED MUST'VE FELT HUMILIATED.
.....
HA HA!
...THE BOSS HATES KIDS!
YOU KNOW FULL WELL...
DUMBASS!
HA!
HA HA!
...IN THE EYES OF HIS PEERS.
...I COULD TELL HOW PATHETIC HE APPEARED ...
EVEN AS A KID...
HA!
HA HA HA!
HA HA!
BLOOD AND TEARS RAN DOWN HIS FACE.

...HE DID A GOOD DEED.
...BUT THAT DAY...
NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW ABOUT IT...
...HE ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING.
BUT...
I-I'M SORRY...
IT AIN'T YOUR FAULT.
...COME BACK TO ME RIGHT NOW?
WHY DID THAT...
WHY ...?
...BECAUSE OF MY CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
I JUST REALIZED WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BACK THEN...
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S "RIGHT NOW."
RIGHT.

AN UNNOTICED ACT...
...THAT NO ONE EVER KNEW ABOUT.
THAT DAY I ALSO...
...ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING.
A GOOD DEED...


WHEN AKKO-NEECHAN WENT INTO THE STORAGE SHED...
...THOSE EYES...
DOKUN (BEATING)
THOSE EYES...!!
DOKUN
DOKUN

DOKUN
(BADUMF)

DOKUN
DOKUN

I DID IT...!
IT'S 1988 ...!!

I CAN'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.

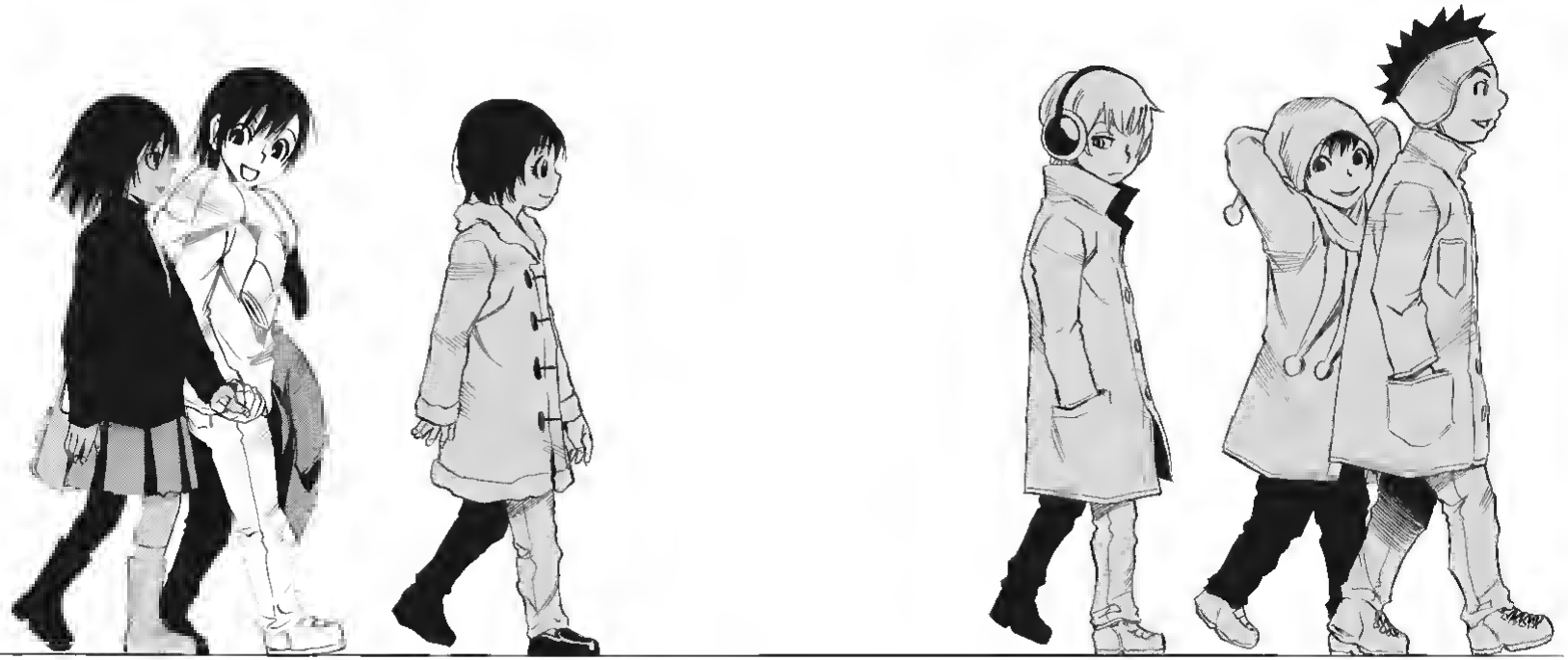
EVEN IF IT MAKES ME LOOK PATHET-IC...

EVEN IF I'M ON MY OWN...

DEFI-NITELY THIS TIME.

THIS TIME FOR SURE.

I HAVE TO PULL IT OFF.



AIRI ...
MOM ...
I HAVE A FEEL-ING...
...IF I MESS UP THIS TIME, I WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
THIS IS MY FINAL REVIVAL ...!

I'M STARVIN'.
I'M BROKE.
IF WE POOL OUR MONEY, THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BUY ALL OF US SOMETHIN' AT THE BAKERY.
WANNA GET A BITE?
AH!
MOM GAVE ME SPENDING MONEY FOR TODAY.
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT!
NICE ONE, SATO-RU!
WHY DON'T WE HAVE OKONOMIYAKI ON ME?
BY THE WAY, SATORU...
DID YOU READ THAT BOOK I LENT YOU THE WEEK BEFORE LAST?
HUH!?
SORRY.
I HAVEN'T GOT AROUND TO IT YET.
POE'S THE SWITCHED MAN.
I DON'T REMEM-BER THAT...
A BOOK HE LENT ME EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO...

READ IT WHEN YOU GET HOME.
THE STORY'S REALLY INTER-ESTING.

WELCOME HOME, SATORU.
JUU (SIZZLE)
JUU
.....
I'M BACK!

JUU
...IN A MINUTE.
JUU
HOLD ON. DINNER WILL BE READY...

MOM...
KOTO (CLUNK)
TSUTSU
TSUTSU
JUU
KAN (CLANG)
KAN
OKAY. HERE WE GO.
WHAT'S WRONG, SATORU?
?
DON'T JUST STAND THERE...
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH KAYO-CHAN?
NO... JUST THE OPPO-SITE.
I'M FINE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
I SEE.
WELL, THEN. LET'S EAT.

REMEMBER THIS.
SORRY, MOM.

?
?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
...YOU CAN GET TO UENO WITHOUT CHANGING TRAINS.
THE FACT IS...

...BUT I COULDN'T FIND IT.
...I LOOKED FOR THE BOOK KENYA LENT ME...
THAT NIGHT...

FEBRUARY 29, 1988

BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1988 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

KENYA...
WAI
WAI
WAI
WAI
WAI CHATTERS
IWAN
14

SATO-RU...
...CAN I TALK TO YOU OUT IN THE HALL?
UM...
SORRY.
I GUESS I LOST THE BOOK YOU LENT ME.

I THINK YOU DID THE BEST YOU COULD THEN, IN YOUR OWN WAY...
YOU WOULD JUST PRETEND, RIGHT?
BEFORE, YOU DIDN'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
HOW CAN I PUT IT? YOU'VE SEEMED MORE... SERIOUS...
RE-CENT-LY...
...AND IT MAKES ME HAPPY.
SATO-RU.
LET ME SAY THIS FIRST.

...LIKE YOU BETTER NOW.
...BUT I...
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO APOLO-GIZE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE BOOK.
YOU SAY I'VE SEEMED MORE SERIOUS, AND HERE I'VE LOST YOUR—
I-I'M SOR-RY.
...THERE NEVER WAS ANY BOOK.
SATORU ...

KOTSU
...TO THIS NAGGING SUSPICION I HAVE.
...AN ANSWER ...
I JUST WANTED ...
KOTSU
KATSU COLACKO

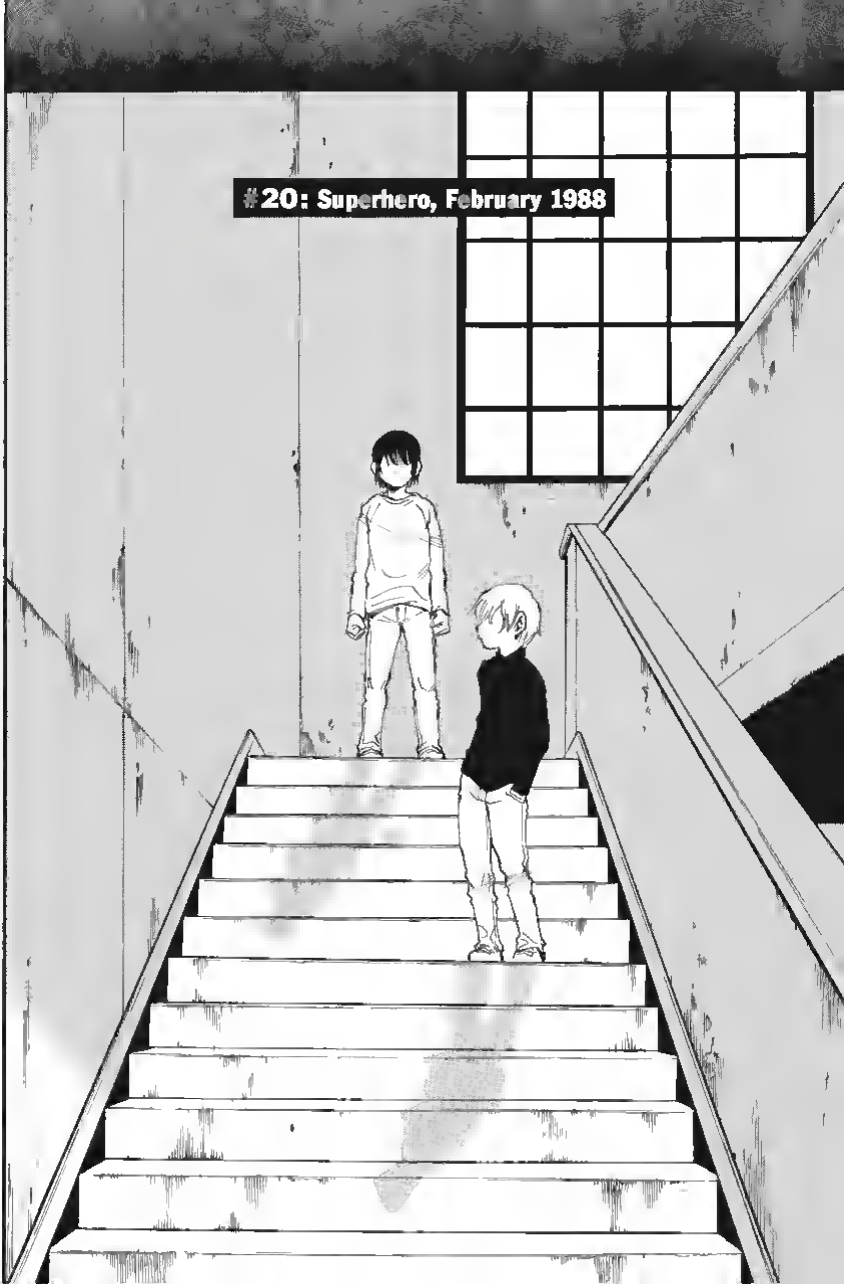
SATO-RU...
...WHO ARE YOU?

#19 END

SATORU, WHO ARE YOU?

"SATORU, WHO ARE YOU?"??

WHO...AM I?


#20: Superhero, February 1988

I'VE BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED WITH HINAZUKI THAT I LEFT MYSELF WIDE-OPEN.

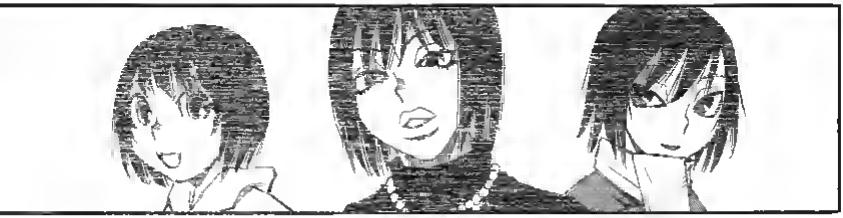
HE'S RIGHT...
...RIGHT?
"YES."
"YES."
"NO."
THE ANSWERS ARE...
...I SAID THAT OUT LOUD.
KENYA, YOU'RE AMAZING...
KENYA, YOU'RE AMAZING ...
HOW WERE YOU RAISED THAT YOU BECAME LIKE THIS?
YOU'RE ELEVEN YEARS OLD!
.....
SPEAKING STANDARD JAPANESE MAKES YOU SOUND MORE MATURE AND GIVES YOU AN AIR OF AUTHORITY.
AND YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SPEAKING IN DIALECT.
...BUT I THINK ONLY WHEN I'M TALKING TO KIDS.
I DO IT TOO...
...BECAUSE YOU FORGOT YOUR MITTENS.
IN FACT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE UP THE RULE, BUT THEN YOU SUGGESTED GOING THERE...
WE HAVE THE RULE ABOUT NOT GOING TO THE HIDEOUT AFTER IT SNOWS.
...THERE'VE BEEN LOTS OF SIGNS.

AND THE BOOK I DIDN'T LOAN YOU...
IF YOU WERE SO PRE-OCCUPIED WITH SOMETHING THAT MADE YOU ABSENT-MINDED ABOUT EVERY-THING ELSE .
...YOU WOULD'VE THOUGHT, "IF HE SAYS HE LENT ME A BOOK, MAYBE HE DID."
I TRIED ASKING THE OTHER GUYS.
DON'T YOU THINK SATORU'S BEEN DIFFERENT RECENTLY?
?
REALLY?
SATORU IS SATORU.
IT SEEMS THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED.
I SUSPECT I'M THE ONLY ONE IN CLASS WHO HAS.
IT ALL STARTED THE DAY YOU WERE STARING AT HINAZUKI.
ACTU-ALLY...
...MAYBE HINAZUKI NOTICED THAT TOO...
I KNEW ABOUT...
...HER CUTS AND BRUISES FOR SOME TIME...
...SO MAYBE THAT'S WHY I NOTICED THE CHANGE IN YOU.

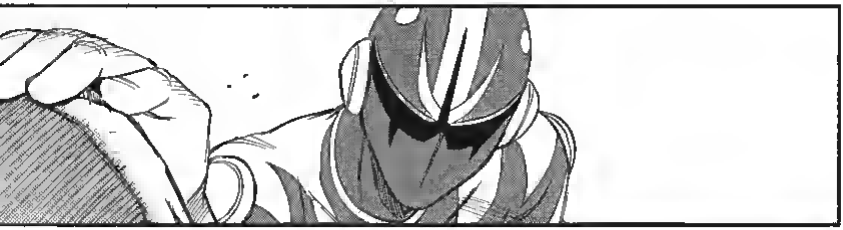
I'VE ALWAYS JUST WATCHED PEOPLE FROM A DISTANCE.
I CAN GET A CLEAR VIEW OF THEIR SITUATION...
...BUT I'M BAD AT DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
AND YET YOU...
...TACKLED THE PROBLEM...
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES, SATORU.
IT WAS LIKE A DETERMINATION...
...TELLING YOU, "THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO"...
...POSSESSED YOUR BODY...
...AND PUT ME TO SHAME.

"SATORU, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?"

WHO AM I...? WHO THE HELL AM I?



I'M...



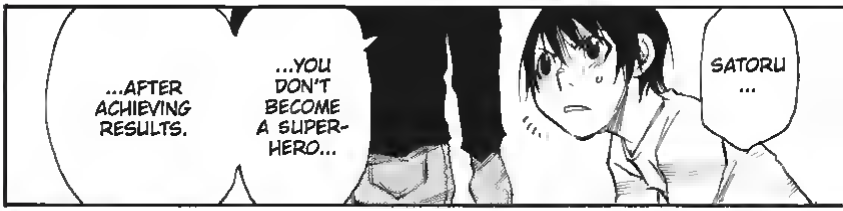
I'M...

...A SUPER-HERO.

...I WANT TO BE.
OR...
...AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE SATO-RU...
AH HA HA HA HA...
PFFT!
I'LL TELL KENYA THE TRUTH.
...HINAZUKI IS GOING TO BE MURDERED.
KENYA...

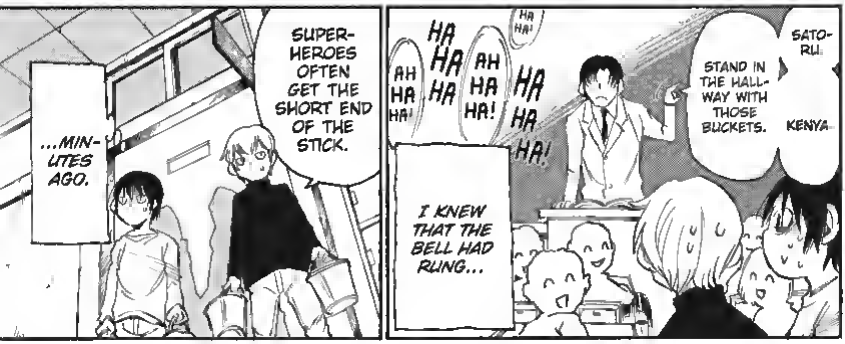
I SAW HER BEING ABUSED.
.....!
IF IT HAD HAPPENED AT NIGHT, SHE EASILY COULD HAVE DIED THERE...

I SWEAR ...
...I'LL STOP IT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.


SATORU ...
...YOU DON'T BECOME A SUPER-HERO...
...AFTER ACHIEVING RESULTS.

YOU ALREADY ARE ONE.
LET ME HELP YOU.
I WANT TO BECOME...
...A SUPER-HERO TOO.

SATORU, I THOUGHT YOU HATED HINAZUKI.
KIND OF A "LIKE REPELS LIKE" THING...
YEAH.
I DID HATE HER.
BUT I WAS ALSO ATTRACTED TO SOMETHING ABOUT HER.
AH...
I SORT OF GET THAT.

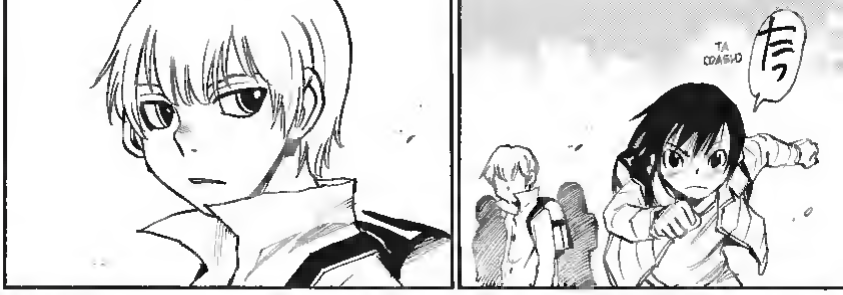

SATORU.
KENYA-
STAND IN THE HALLWAY WITH THOSE BUCKETS.
HA HA!
AH HA HA!
HA HA HA!
I KNEW THAT THE BELL HAD RUNG...
SUPER-HEROES OFTEN GET THE SHORT END OF THE STICK.
...MINUTES AGO.

...THERE'S STILL SOMETHING...
BUT... SATORU...
...THAT DOESN'T QUITE MAKE SENSE.

SIGN: TODAY'S GOAL: FOCUS

BLACKBOARD: FEBRUARY 29 (MONDAY)

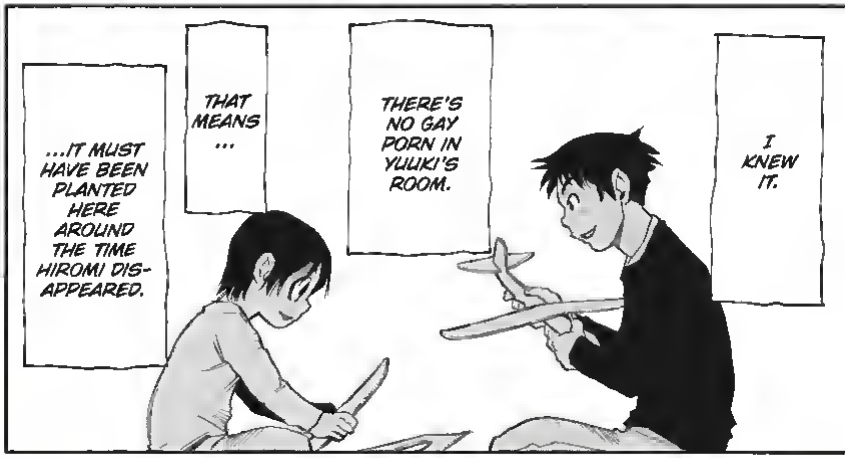
...YOU'RE A THIEF.
I DON'T THINK...
...I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU THE OTHER DAY.
MISA-TO...
I'M NOT BOTHERED ABOUT IT ANYMORE.
THAT'S OKAY.
GAYA
GAYA
GAYA
GAYA
(GAYA (CHATTER)
SURE.
OKAY.
HIROMI, KENYA...
...WILL YOU WAIT WITH HINAZUKI AT THE CHILDREN'S CENTER?
I NEED TO MAKE A STOP.



BANNERS (R-L): BENTO / 100 YEN COFFEE

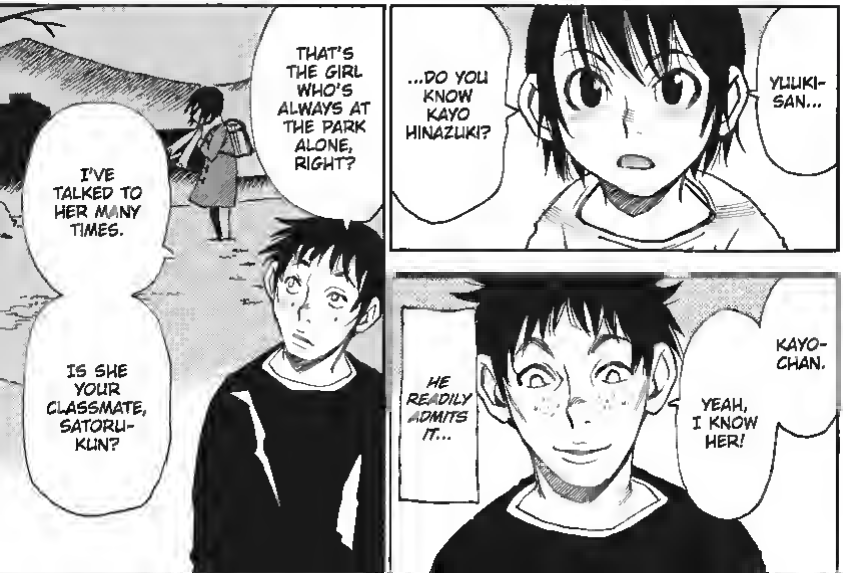
BOOKS: LOLITA, STRAWBERRY PHOTO ALBUM, GIRLS' SCHOOL UNIFORMS FIELD GUIDE, MILKY WAY, MILKY WAY

AH!
TON
TON
TON
TON
TON (THMP)
GABA (CRUSH)


I KNEW IT.
THERE'S NO GAY PORN IN YUUKI'S ROOM.
THAT MEANS ...
...IT MUST HAVE BEEN PLANTED HERE AROUND THE TIME HIROMI DISAPPEARED.

HINAZUKI WILL BE SAFE TOMORROW, MARCH 1...
...AS LONG AS SHE ISN'T LEFT ALONE AT THE PARK.
THE PROBLEM IS MARCH 2, THE DAY OF THE BIRTHDAY PARTY.
I WANT YUUKI TO HAVE AN ALIBI IN ADVANCE FOR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS.

DIDN'T HE HAVE A CAR OR MOTORBIKE? I'M SURE HE WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT FASTER THAN SOMEBODY TRAVELING ON FOOT.



RECENTLY, SHE'S BECOME A PART OF OUR GROUP.
YEAH.
NOT IN A WHILE ...
NO WONDER I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND ...
REALLY ...?
R...
はぁ
PAN (SLAP)
THAT'S THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULT!
HOT... DAMN!
KAYO-CHAN!
...UTTER SOMETHING CLOSE TO A SWEAR WORD.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD YUUKI-SAN...

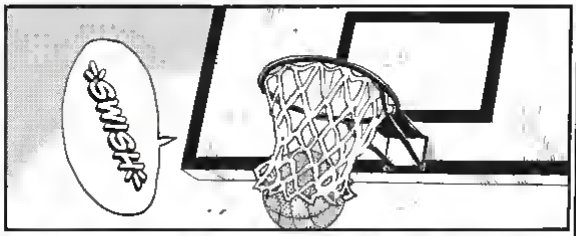
SEE YOU!
...BUT YUUKI-SAN SPOKE CASUALLY IN THE LOCAL DIALECT FOR THE REST OF MY VISIT.
I DON'T THINK HE REALIZED IT...
SEE YA...
...SATORU-KUN!

SIGN: KATORIJIMA CONSTRUCTION
加渡島建設
...AND DECIDED TO USE HIM AS A PATSY.
MORE LIKELY THE KILLER SAW YUUKI-SAN TOGETHER WITH HINAZUKI...
...ANYBODY ASKED HIM TO APPROACH HINAZUKI.
IT DOESN'T SEEM...

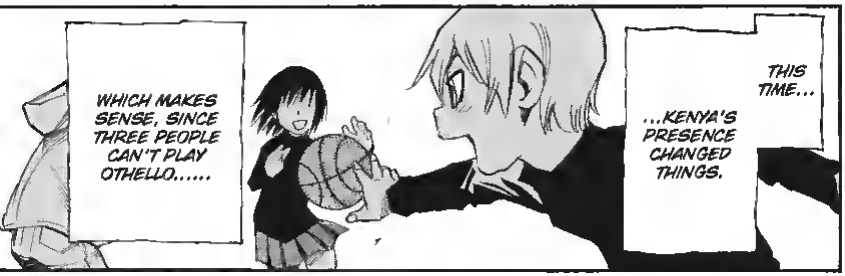
I'M GONNA PREVENT THE MURDER FROM EVER HAPPENING.
HANG IN THERE, YUUKI-SAN...

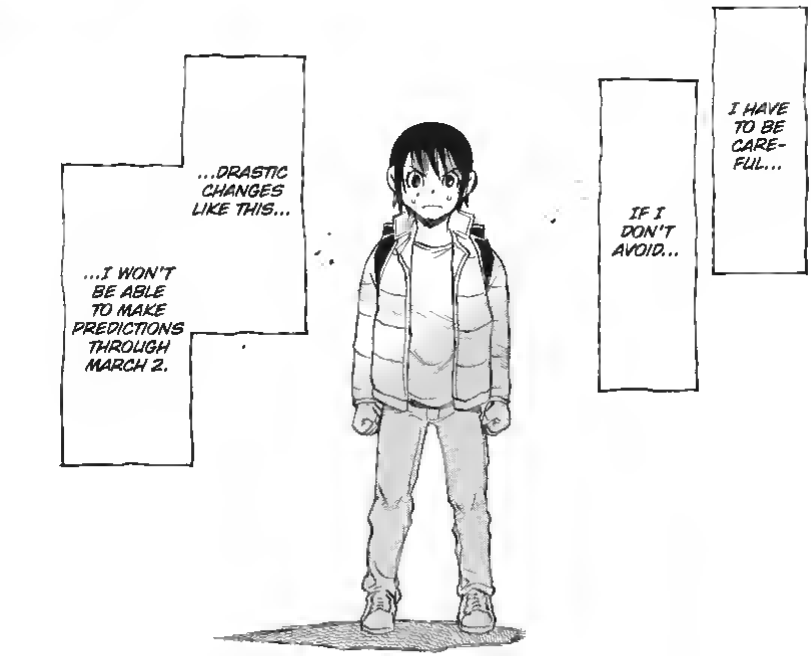
BOX OTHELLO

SIGN SHIRAKABA CHILDREN'S CENTER



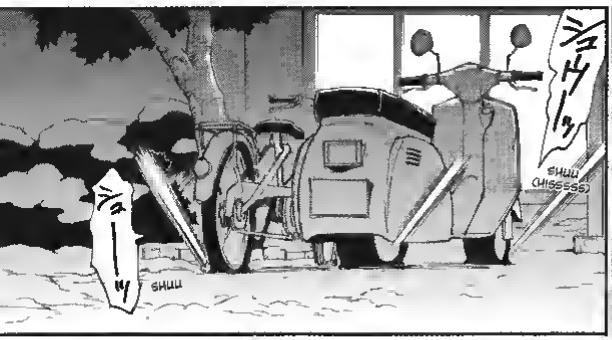
...HINAZUKI AND HIROMI WERE PLAYING OTHELLO.
DURING THE PREVIOUS REVIVAL...


WHICH MAKES SENSE, SINCE THREE PEOPLE CAN'T PLAY OTHELLO.....
...KENYA'S PRESENCE CHANGED THINGS.
THIS TIME...

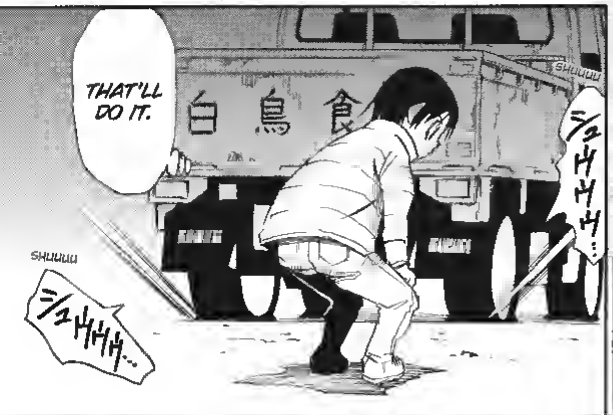

...DRASTIC CHANGES LIKE THIS...
...I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE PREDICTIONS THROUGH MARCH 2.
IF I DON'T AVOID..
I HAVE TO BE CARE-FUL...

BANNER: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SATORU-KUN AND KAYO-CHAN / ATTACHED SIGN: MARRIAGE?

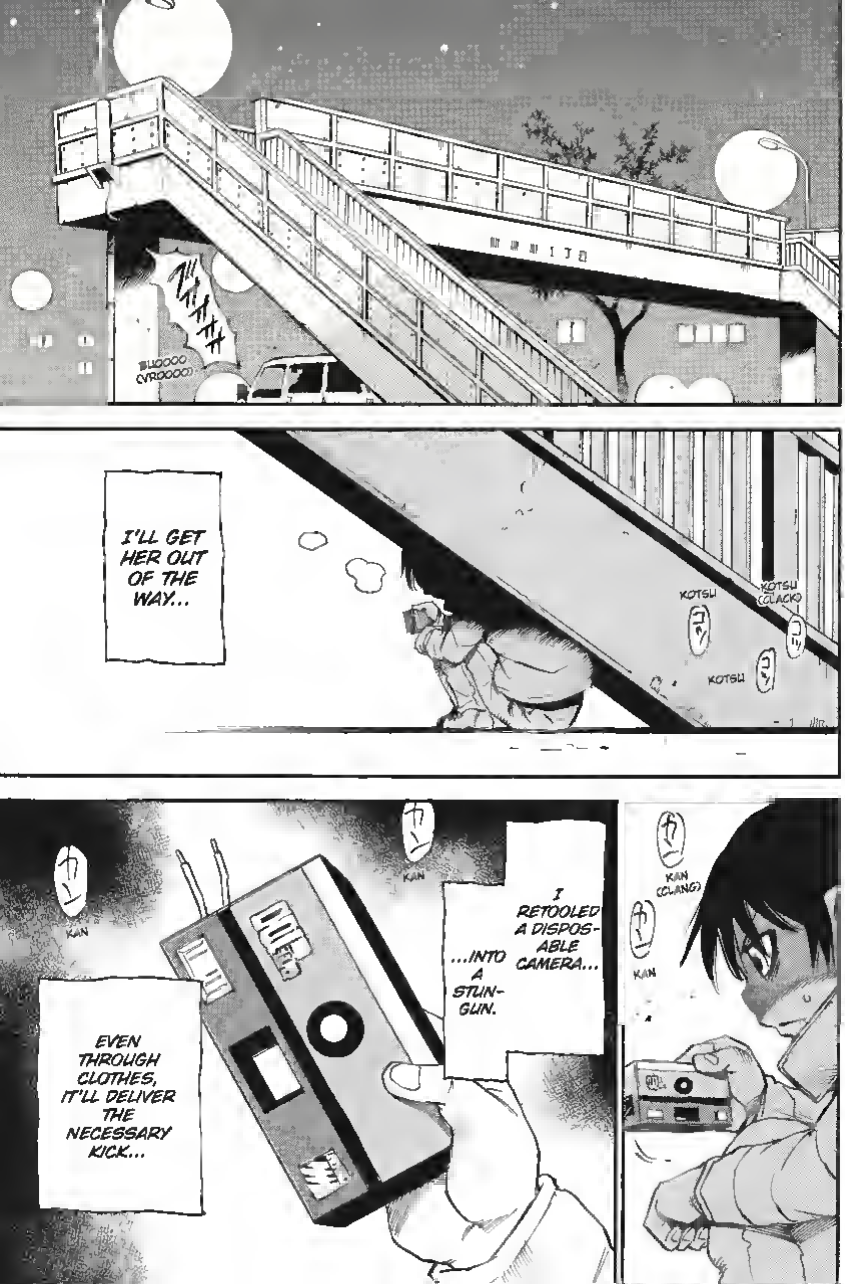
MARCH 1 WENT BY JUST LIKE LAST TIME, AND THEN IT WAS MARCH 2, 1988.



TRUCK SHIRATORI



GO DIE
GASHAN (CRASH)
THE COUP DE GRACE!
GUGUGU (CRUMPLE)
THIS WAY...
...THE POLICE WILL SERVE AS THEIR ALIBI FOR TONIGHT.
WHO DID THAT!?
HEY!
WH-WHAT WAS THAT!?
...THE MAIN EVENT!
KATSU
KATSU (CRUNCH)
KATSU
.....
AND NOW FOR...


BLOOOO (VROOOO)
I'LL GET HER OUT OF THE WAY...
KOTSU
KOTSU (CLACK)
KOTSU
EVEN THROUGH CLOTHES, IT'LL DELIVER THE NECESSARY KICK...
KAN
KAN
...INTO A STUN-GUN.
I RETOOLED A DISPOS-ABLE CAMERA...
KAN (CLANG)
KAN

カン
KAN
カン
KAN
カン
KAN (CLIMB)
カン
KAN

KAN
カン
KAN
カン
KAN
カン
KAN
カン

YOU'RE THE ONE.
HINA-ZUKI'S MOTHER ...!

I'M GONNA TAKE HER OUT OF THE PICTURE TO KEEP HER AWAY FROM HINAZUKI...!

!?
KAN (CLANG)
KAN
KAN
WHY ...!?
!?
THE BATTERY IS WRAPPED IN PLASTIC TAPE...
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?
WHY WON'T IT WORK NOW, AT THE CRITICAL MOMENT!?
BANA (POP)
バカ!!

.....
...SATO-RU.
KEEP YOUR COOL...
...IF SHE FELL DOWN THESE STAIRS AND DIED.
IT'D BE REALLY BAD...

...IF SHE DIDN'T GET HURT AND STUCK AROUND...
IT WOULD BE EVEN WORSE...
...WHILE YOU WERE PUT IN JAIL. UNABLE TO HELP ANYONE.

I SEE.
KENYA...

I ALMOST SCREWED UP AGAIN IN A MAJOR WAY...
HE'S RIGHT.
YEAH.

COME ON, TALK TO ME.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE.
I TOLD YOU TO LET ME HELP, REMEMBER?

...I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS.
SATORU ...
THAT SHOWS HOW DESPERATE YOU ARE TO SAVE HINAZUKI.
.....
...YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, DID YOU?
I GUESS ...
IF YOU TOOK ANY ACTION THAT WOULD HURT SOMEONE...
...I GOT WORRIED.
THAT'S WHY...
...I DECIDED...
...I WOULD HAVE TO STOP YOU.

KENYA ...
...IS TRYING TO PROTECT ME.
THANKS, KENYA.
IT'S JUST THAT I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE DAY...
...HINAZUKI WAS MOST AT RISK.
BECAUSE IT'S WEDNES-DAY?
YOU KNEW?
HINAZUKI HIDES IT, BUT SHE USUALLY HAS FRESH BRUISES ON THURSDAYS.
WHAT ABOUT NOTIFYING THE POLICE OR THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CENTER?
YASHIRO-SENSEI HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM, BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH HELP...
SPEAKING OF THE POLICE...
SATORU, YOU DID SOMETHING WORRISOME BEFORE COMING HERE TOO.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
DOKI (HEARTBEAT)
TH...
THAT WAS...
...TO GET THE POLICE OVER TO THAT HOUSE FOR A DIFFERENT (NOT REALLY) REASON..

CAR: HOKKAIDO POLICE

#20 END

I'M GONNA KIDNAP HINAZUKI.

#21: Hiding Place, March 1988
NO MATTER HOW IT ENDS...
...ANY-THING IS BETTER THAN HINAZUKI DYING.

TO BE HONEST ...
...PUTTING HINAZUKI IN HIDING ISN'T A BAD IDEA.
BUT DESPITE WHAT YOU SAID, LET'S MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T END WITH YOUR ARREST.
YOUR MOM WOULD BE DEVASTATED.

NAH...
I THINK WHEN MY MOM HEARD...
...SHE'D SAY...
..."WELL DONE."

I CAN PICTURE IT.
OKAY!
I'M IN!
AH...

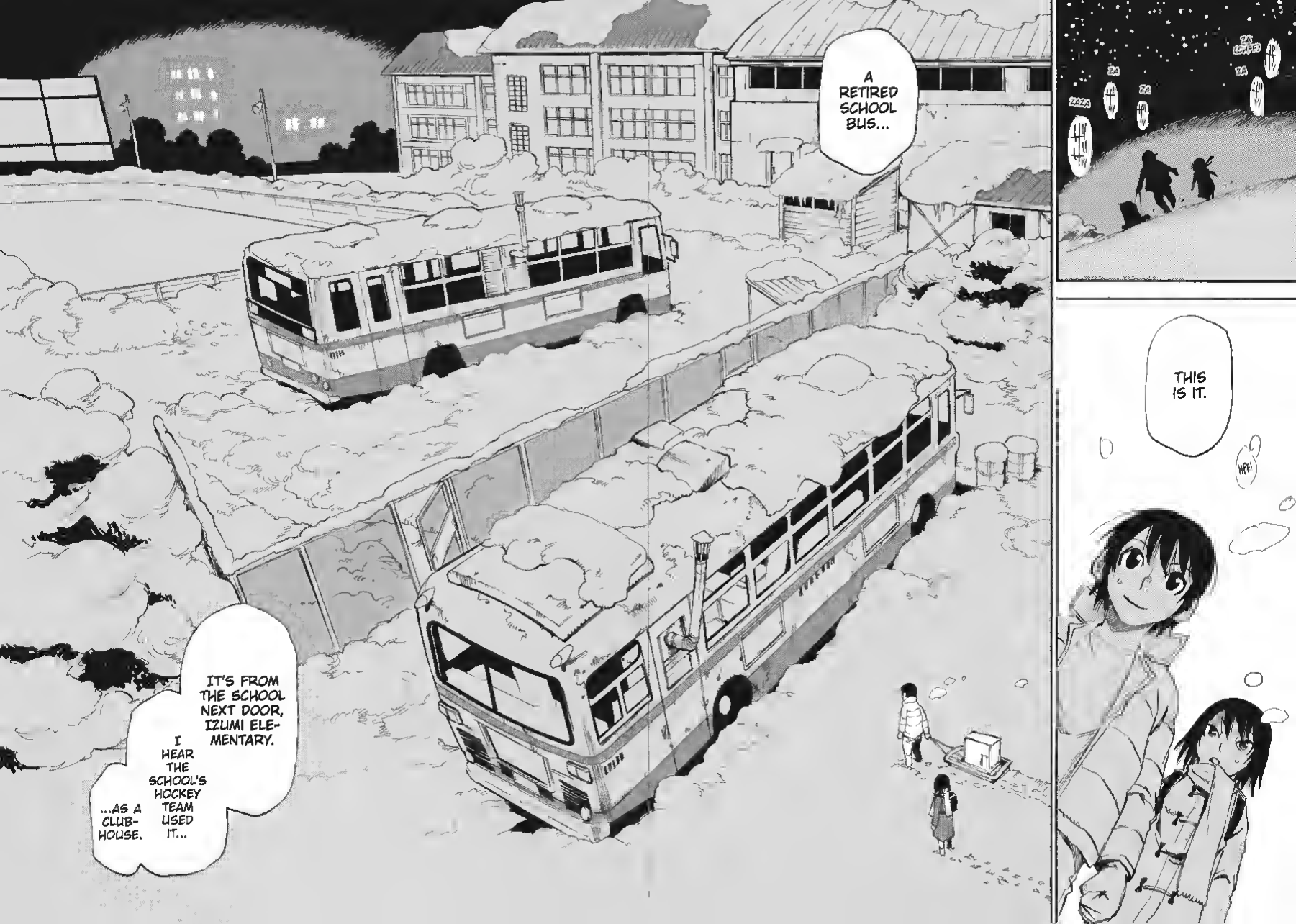
GO AHEAD.
WE'LL CLEAN UP HERE.
ALL RIGHT, I'M GONNA DROP HINAZUKI OFF.

THIS TIME I DIDN'T FORGET TO BRING MY JACKET AND WORK GLOVES WHEN I LEFT THE HOUSE.

ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
LISTEN...
HINA-ZUKI...
...FUJI-NU—

IS IT ALL RIGHT...
...IF I KIDNAP YOU TONIGHT?
...ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

YEAH.
THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF.
MY FEELINGS FOR HINA-ZUKI...
WHICH IS STRON-GER...?
...OR HER MOTHER'S INTIMIDATION...
SURE.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY.


A RETIRED SCHOOL BUS...
IT'S FROM THE SCHOOL NEXT DOOR, IZUMI ELEMENTARY.
I HEAR THE SCHOOL'S HOCKEY TEAM USED IT...
...AS A CLUBHOUSE.
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZAZA
ZA CRUNCH
THIS IS IT.
HFF!

ARE YOU SURE THIS IS OKAY?
YEP.
THEY GOT A NEW BUS LAST YEAR, SO THIS IS JUST USED FOR STORAGE.
HEY, YOU TWO.
HEY.
THEY SHOVED ALL KINDS OF USELESS JUNK IN HERE.
IT WOULD COST THEM TO HAVE IT TAKEN AWAY, SO IT WON'T BE GOING ANY-WHERE.
LET'S OPEN THE AIR VENTS...
...BEFORE LIGHTING THE STOVE.
GIGI (CREAK)
GATAN (RATTLE)
IT'S RUSTED OUT...

WE'RE LUCKY THEY LEFT THE STOVEPIPE IN HERE.
ガガガガ…
BOBOBO (SPLUTTER)
ヒイ
BIII (STICK)
GATA
GATA (RATTLE)
GOTCHA!
MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T LOOK SUSPICIOUS FROM THE OUTSIDE.
NOT BAD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
YEAH.

AWE-SOME!
WOW...
I'D LIKE TO LIVE HERE MYSELF.
THIS IS A GREAT HIDEOUT.
ALTHOUGH IT DOESN'T HAVE A BATH...
LIVING IN A BIG HOUSE DOESN'T GUARANTEE HAPPINESS...
THIS IS...
...A NICE PLACE.
.....
EVEN SO...
...I HAVE TO GO HOME.
I'LL SEE YOU, HINAZUKI.
I'M GOING HOME NOW TOO, BUT I'LL BE BACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
I'LL KNOCK THREE TIMES.

月曜パン
LABEL: MONDAY BREAD

...SATO-RU...
...AND KENYA-KUN.
THANK YOU...

...WE'LL PROTECT YOU, KAYO.
I PROM-ISE...
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT... ...KAYO-CHAN?
NO NEED TO THANK ME.
KATA (RATTLE)
KATA
BATAN (SLAM)
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU (RUNNING)

OW...
GON (WHAP)
ONLY YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH "KAYO," SATORU.
I THINK I'LL GO WITH "HINA" INSTEAD.
YEAH. IT IS WEIRD CALLING HER THAT.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? "KAYO-CHAN"...
WHAT? YOU DON'T THINK IT'S EMBARRASSING FOR ME?
"KAYO"? GEEZ, MAN...
THANK YOU.
KENYA...
...TO THE HARD PART YET.
...WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN...
BE-SIDES...
LIKE I SAID, THERE'S NO NEED FOR THANKS.
ZAKU
ZAZA
ZAZAZA (SKSHHHD
THAT'S RIGHT.

KENYA...
...IF THIS GOES PUBLIC...
ZAKU GRUNGE
...MAKE LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
ZAKU
ZAKU
OF COURSE!
.....
ZAKU
ZAKU
SA-TORU...
I'M YOUR "SPARE."
IF SOME-THING HAP-PENS...
...I'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT THE ONE WHO GOES TO JAIL.

WE STOPPED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY...
...AND GOT TO TALKING.
THAT CERTAINLY TOOK A LONG TIME.
SORRY.
MMMM...
NOPE.
NO CALLS.
DID YOU GET A CALL FROM HINAZUKI'S MOM...?
.....
AH...
MMM...
THIS'LL DO FOR MY BREAK-FAST.
...BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET UP.
OH, BY THE WAY...
...I'M LEAVING EARLY TOMOR-ROW...

WELL...
...I'M GOING TO BED.
YOU SHOULD TURN IN EARLY TOO, MOM.
YEAH, YEAH.
GOOD NIGHT.

MUKURI (SIT)
.....

I DON'T CARE IF I DO GET CAUGHT.
THE SITUATION CALLS FOR BOLD MEASURES ...

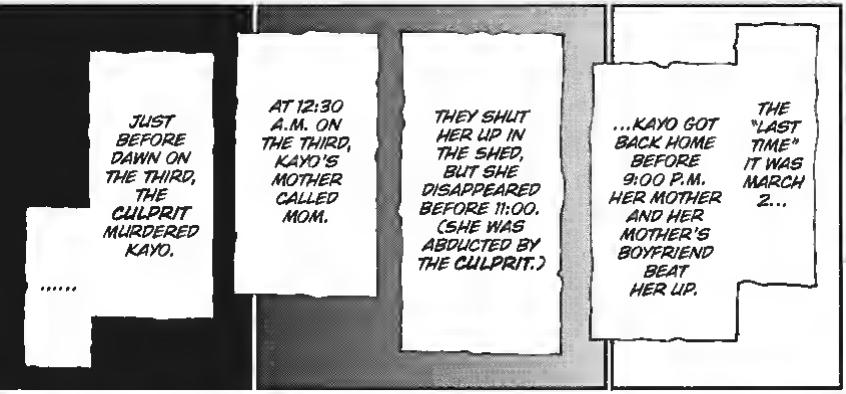
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
KON (KNOCK)
KON
KON
ZAKU (CRUNCH)
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
WERE YOU UP?
I COULDN'T SLEEP...
WELL... I DON'T BLAME YOU.
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
SHUN (STEAM)
SHUN
I AM.
TOPO
TOPO
TOPO
TOPO (GLUG)
LABEL: NOPPORO RAMEN

COME WITH US, KAYO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO...
...KENYA AND THE OTHERS AND I ARE PLANNING A CAMPING TRIP.
THIS SUMMER...
CUP NOODLES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS GOOD, ISN'T IT?
YEAH... GUESS SO...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD A MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS.
ZURU
ZURU (SLURP)
THIS IS GOOD.
SURE, YOU WILL!
...THEN OKAY!

AHAHAH
IT'S MORNING.
WAKE UP, SATORU.
...HUH?
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE IZUMI ELEMENTARY KIDS COME TO SCHOOL.
GOOD THING I STOPPED BY.
WAAH!

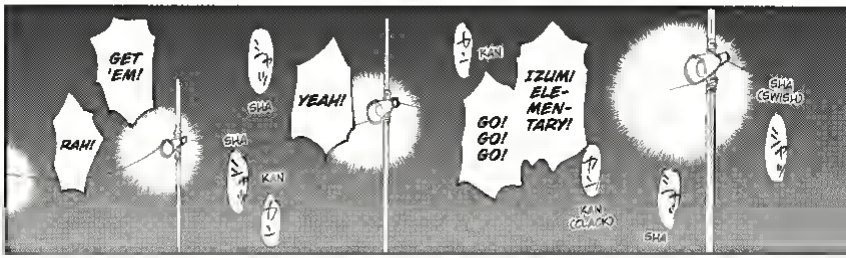
BLACKBOARD: MARCH 3 (THURSDAY) HELPERS: YUKARI ISHIZAKI, SHINICHI JOUJITSU

BANNER: ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1998 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

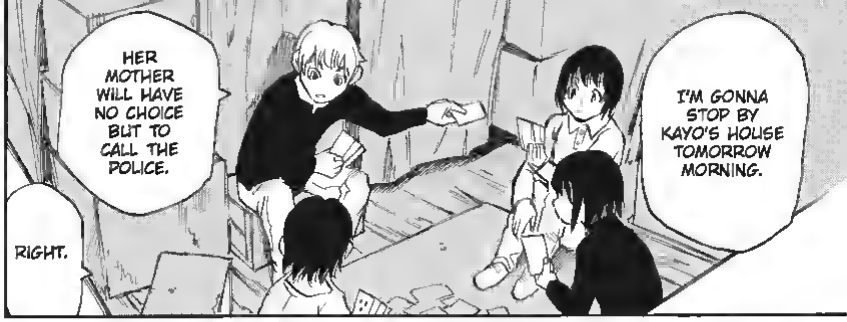


THIS TIME THERE ARE MAJOR CHANGES IN THE ACTIONS OF KAYO, US, KAYO'S MOTHER, AND THE KILLER. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THIS IS UNCHARTED TERRITORY.

SIGN: STAFF ROOM



DON'T TELL KAZU OR OSAMU ABOUT THIS.
IN FACT, I'M SORRY...
...FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED, HIROMI.
NO MATTER...
...WHAT FORM IT TAKES...
...I'M TOUCHED THAT YOU'RE COUNTING ON ME.
AND EVEN IF I WENT HOME...
...NO ONE ELSE WOULD BE THERE UNTIL 8:00.
SORRY TO YOU TOO, KAYO...
...FOR SHUTTING YOU UP IN HERE.
IT'S OKAY.
I'VE NEVER HAD...
...SO MUCH FUN.
I'M GLAD I MUSTERED UP THE COURAGE TO COME HERE.
.....


I'M GONNA STOP BY KAYO'S HOUSE TOMORROW MORNING.
HER MOTHER WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CALL THE POLICE.
RIGHT.

HEY.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON MORE OR LESS...
...BUT WHAT HAPPENS IN THE END?
AH...
GOOD QUESTION...

DON'T WORRY.
I'LL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

.....
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

...AND YOU GUYS WERE JUST HELPING ME...
IF I STARTED IT...
...NO ONE WILL BE IN TROUBLE, RIGHT?
THERE.
I WIN.
...YOU SURE DID.

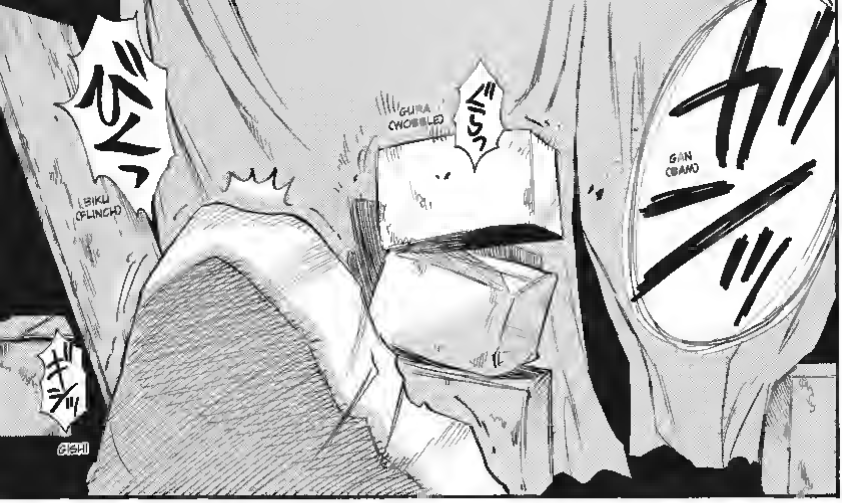
THAT HAD BEEN MY BLIND SPOT...
ON THE WAY HOME, KENYA SAID...
"I BET YOU HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT...
...SA-TORU."
"YOU'RE RIGHT," I ANSWERED...
...AND KENYA SAID...
"SOMEONE LIKE THAT IS A HERO TO ME."

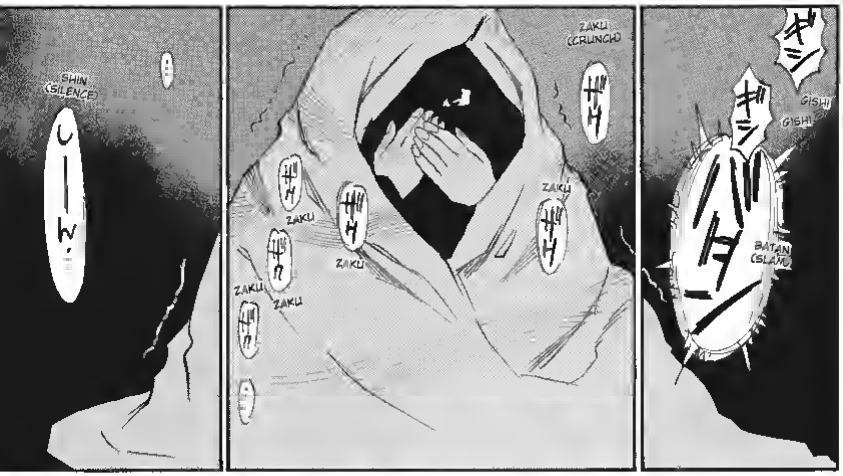
#21 END

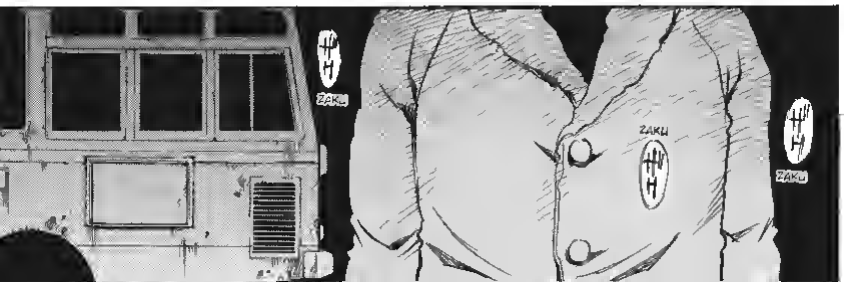
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
GACHA
GACHAKO
.....
IS THAT SATORU?

#22: Refuge, March 1988

WHO IS IT!?
GYU (CLENCH)
NO...!!
GISHI (CREAK)
GISHI
GACHA (CHAIN)
GACHA
DOSA (WHUMP)


ビクン
BIKU (FLINCH)
GURA (WOBBLE)
グラ
GIN (BAM)
ギシ
GISHI


SHIN (SILENCE)
しーん
ZAKU (CRUNCH)
ザク
ZAKU
ギシ
GISHI
GISHI
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)


ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU

.....
MAYBE A SECURITY GUARD ON PATROL... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
NO.
DID HE EVEN HAVE A LIGHT?
MAYBE A TEACHER ON NIGHT DUTY?
BUT WOULD A TEACHER BE PUTTING STUFF IN STORAGE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT...?

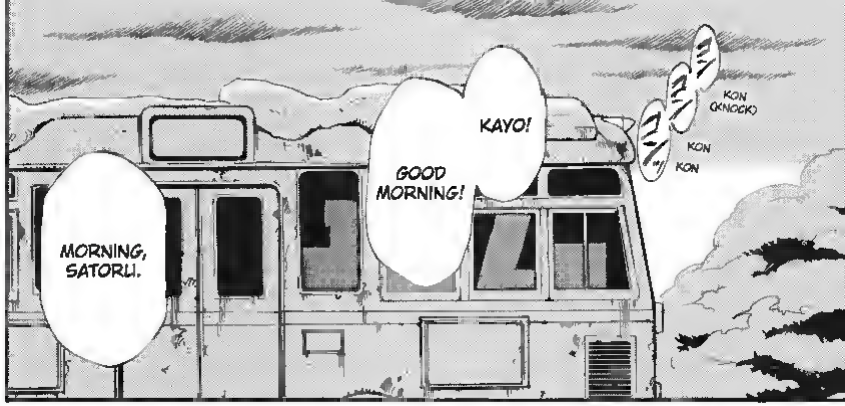
GOOD MORN-ING!
JUU (SIZZLE)
JUU
PACHI
PACHI (CRACKLE)
...GOOD MORN-ING.
YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL EARLY AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
JUU
...YEAH.
WHAT AM I DOING? ISN'T IT OBVI-OUS?
KACHA (CLATTER)
KACHA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP THIS EARLY?
...CAN I ASK YOU A FRANK QUESTION?
SATO-RU...
GO AHEAD ...
BAKU
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WOLF IT DOWN.
GATSU
THANK YOU!
GATSU (GOBBLE) GATSU
BAKU (MUNCH) BAKU

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
IT'S A SECRET.
WHO ARE YOU MEETING AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING?
...DOING ANYTHING BAD, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE NOT...
NO.
OKAY, THEN.

LEAVING SO EARLY, YOU'LL BE HUNGRY BEFORE LUNCH.
TAKE THIS.
WAIT A SECOND.
SEE YOU LATER!

...MOM!
THANKS ...
RIGHT!

BATAN (SLAM)


KON (KNOCK)
KON KON
KAYO!
GOOD MORNING!
MORNING, SATORU.

HERE, BREAK-FAST.
ISN'T THAT FOR YOU?
I'VE ALREADY EATEN, SO IT'S OKAY.

HIROMI-KUN BROUGHT ME LOTS OF BOOKS YESTERDAY...
AH...
IT MUST BE BORING HERE.
IF YOU HAD A TV AT LEAST...
I'M SORRY, KAYO.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
MOGU MOGU
MOGU MOGU CHUNCHO
WOW!
LOOK AT ALL THIS...

WHAT IS IT?
KAPA (SNAP)
MM...
NOTH-ING.
THAT WAS GOOD.
I THINK IT'LL TAKE ONLY ANOTHER DAY OR TWO OF BEING PATIENT.
WELL.
...I'LL SEE YOU AFTER SCHOOL.
YEAH.
I put in all of my son's favorite things.
Sachiko Fujinuma

たたたたた
TA TA TA TA TA
!
MAYBE I SPENT TOO MUCH TIME IN THERE.
CRAP ...
THE KIDS FROM IZUMI ELEMENTARY ARE COMING TO SCHOOL.
TA (TMP)
たたたた
TA TA TA TA
IT'LL BE FINE. I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT, SAKI.
EHH?
I DON'T WANNA GIVE THE FAREWELL ADDRESS AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY..
REAL-LY?
YOU THINK SO?
JUST HAVE A LITTLE COURAGE!
YOU'RE GOOD AT PUBLIC SPEAKING.
BANNER ICE HOCKEY CLUB 1988 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
KAAAN (DENG)
カーン
KOOON
コーン
KOOON (DONG)
コーン
KIIIN (DIING)
キーン
63昭和年アイスホッケー

3月4日(金)
5直
小野直子
KAYO...
...IS ABSENT AGAIN TODAY, I GUESS?
BLACKBOARD: MARCH 4 (FRIDAY) / HELPERS: ONO, ONO
FUJI-NUMA...
YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-THING?
NO... THIS MORN-ING...
...I STOPPED BY HER HOUSE, BUT NO ONE CAME TO THE DOOR.
MAYBE SHE'S GOT A COLD?
I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH HINA-ZUKI.
YEAH... AND THE SCHOOL HASN'T GOTTEN WORD? THAT'S STRANGE...
FAN (CLAP)
WELL...
...THIS ISN'T UNUSUAL FOR KAYO.
SHE MAY SHOW UP HERE WHEN WE LEAST EXPECT IT.
FOR THE MOMENT, SHALL WE BEGIN CLASS?

I SEE...
YOU STOPPED BY HER HOUSE, BUT NO ONE CAME TO THE DOOR...

YEAH.

YOU MUST BE WORRIED.

ACT LIKE NORMAL...
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULD STAY CALM...
...THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAY.
BUT YOU'RE RELATIVELY CALM ABOUT IT.

...I TRIED CALLING KAYO'S HOUSE, BUT NO ONE ANSWERED.
YESTERDAY AND TODAY...
I CALLED HER MOTHER'S WORK TOO...
...BUT SHE HASN'T BEEN IN.
...SENSEI!!
WOULD YOU CALL THE POLICE OR THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CENTER?
THE POLICE...
YES, WELL...
IF I CALL THE POLICE NOW...
...WON'T IT CAUSE SOMEONE SOME TROUBLE?
HUH?
.....!
...I CALLED THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CENTER.
YESTERDAY...
TODAY ...
...THEY'RE GOING TO KAYO'S HOUSE.

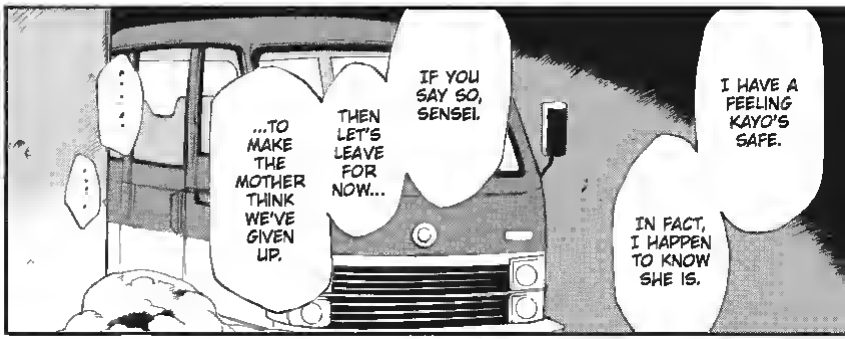
I'LL GO WITH THEM.
THE ROOT OF THE PROB-LEM...
...IS PROBA-BLY THE MOTHER.
SO YASHIRO (SENSEI) WAS ALREADY MOVING BEHIND THE SCENES...
ALL RIGHT ...!
THANKS, SENSEI!
"IT'S IMPORT-ANT TO DO YOUR BEST IN EVERY-THING."
ANOTHER ONE OF MY PET EXPRES-SIONS...
.....

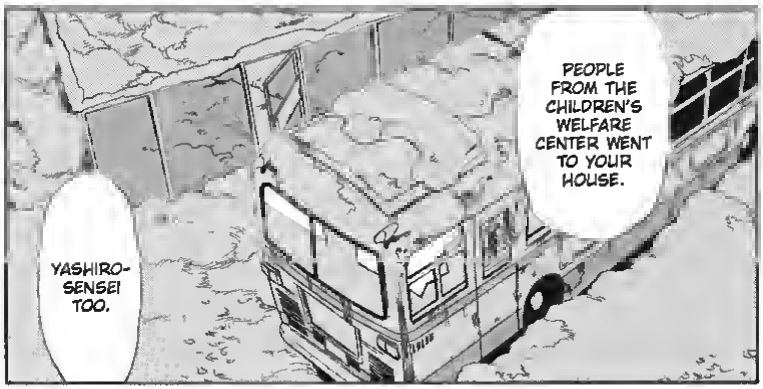
HINA-ZUKI-SAN...
PINPON
KON (KNOCK)
KON
PINPON (DING-DONG)
PINPON
HINA-ZUKI-SAN!
PINPON
WE'RE WITH THE ISHIKARI SUB-PRE-FECTURAL BUREAU.
SHALL WE CHECK AROUND BACK?
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU (CRUNCH)
THE LIGHTS ARE ON, SO PRESUMABLY SOMEONE IS HOME.
NO ONE'S COMING.

HINA-ZUKI-SAN!
ARE YOU HOME?
KAYO!
ZAKU (CRUNCH)
ZAKU
ZAKU
AH!
SENSEI!
I'M COMING IN.
GARA (SLIDE)
SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S BEEN MISSING FOR TWO DAYS.
LET'S TRUST HIM.
I'LL TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY.
IT'S OKAY.

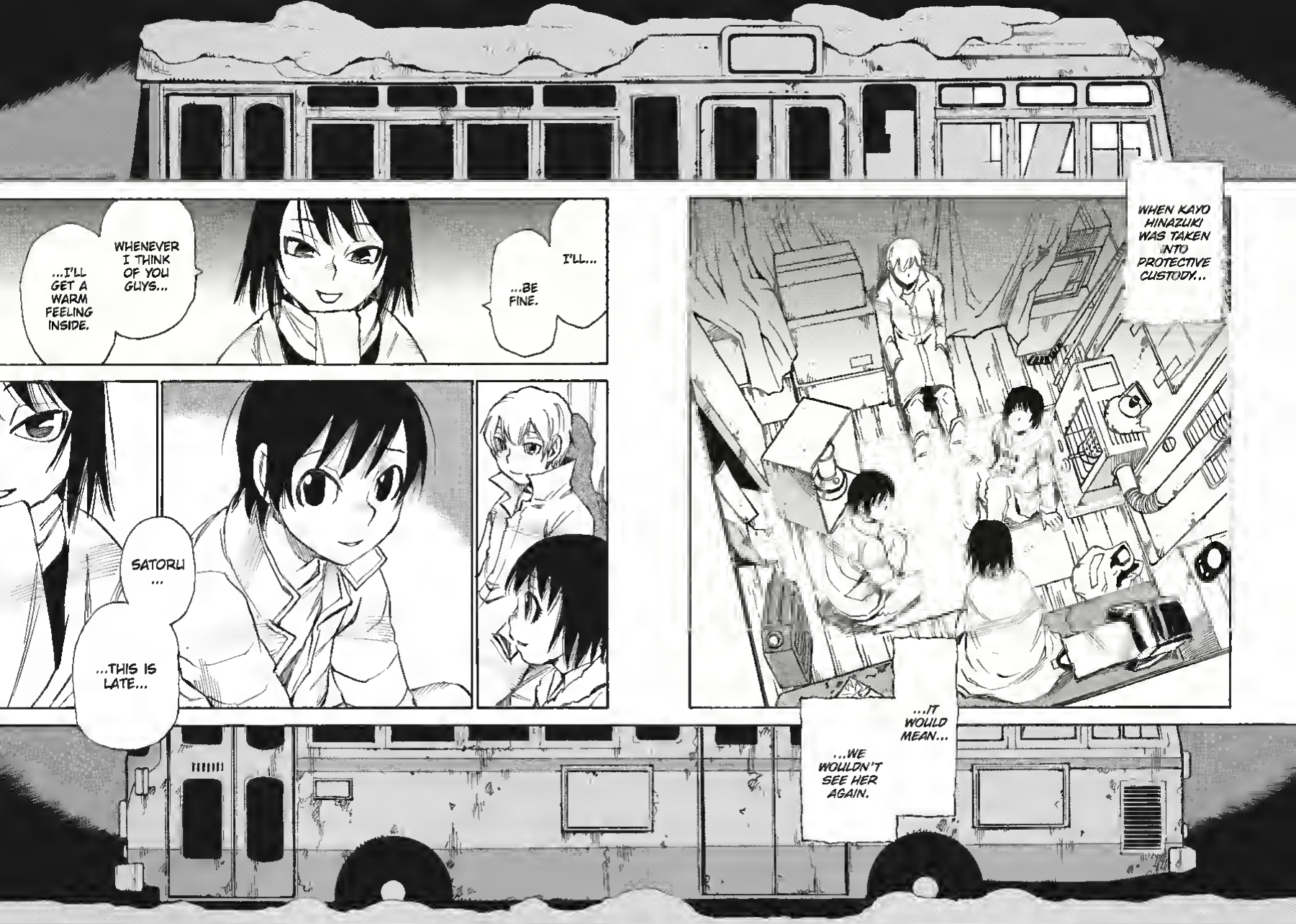
I BET THE MOTHER USED THE VERAN-DA...
...TO ESCAPE RIGHT WHEN WE GOT HERE.
RATS...
I WANTED TO AT LEAST TAKE THE DAUGHTER INTO CUSTODY...
THE LIGHTS AND STOVE ARE ON...
...BUT NO ONE IS HERE.
THE RECENT REMNANTS OF A MEAL FOR ONE.
KAYO'S COAT IS GONE.
HER MOTHER WAS HERE, AT LEAST, UP UNTIL MOMENTS AGO.

LET'S TRY AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING.
I DON'T THINK THE MOTHER'S COMING BACK WHILE WE'RE HERE.
BUT IF WE LEAVE, I'M SURE SHE'LL RETURN.
IS THE DAUGHTER ALL RIGHT...?
WE COULD HAVE THE POLICE LOOK FOR THE MOTHER.
NO...


I HAVE A FEELING KAYO'S SAFE.
IN FACT, I HAPPEN TO KNOW SHE IS.
IF YOU SAY SO, SENSEI.
THEN LET'S LEAVE FOR NOW...
...TO MAKE THE MOTHER THINK WE'VE GIVEN UP.
.....


PEOPLE FROM THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CENTER WENT TO YOUR HOUSE.
YASHIRO-SENSEI TOO.

YOUR MOTHER..
...WASN'T HOME.
I THINK THIS CAN BE RESOLVED TODAY OR TOMORROW.
.....
.....
KAYO...
...YOU'LL BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR MOTHER...
NOTH-ING...
...COULD MAKE ME HAPPIER.


I'LL...
...BE FINE.
WHENEVER I THINK OF YOU GUYS...
...I'LL GET A WARM FEELING INSIDE.
SATORU ...
...THIS IS LATE...
WHEN KAYO HINAZUKI WAS TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY...
...IT WOULD MEAN...
...WE WOULDN'T SEE HER AGAIN.

HERE.
...BUT I FINISHED YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

AH...

...
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE WAITED...
THANK YOU...
...FOR THIS MOMENT FOREVER.

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO EASILY MOVED, SATORU.
HUH?
...I WAS CRYING.
...OH YEAH.
SATO-RU...
...TO-NIGHT...
STAY WITH ME.
EHHH!?
THAT'S AWFULLY SUDDEN...
PAKU
PAKU (GAPE)
NOT LIKE THAT.
NOTHING HAP-PENED...
...BUT SOME-ONE CAME IN HERE LATE LAST NIGHT.

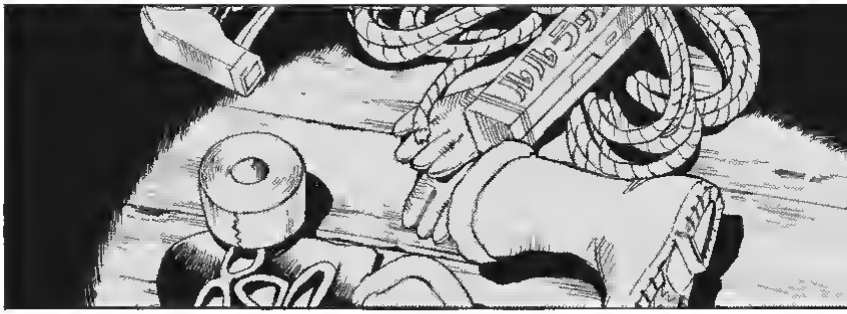
I WAS SCARED...
A SECURITY GUARD ON NIGHT DUTY?
OR THE SCHOOL JANITOR?
ANY OTHER POSSIBILITIES?
MAYBE SOMEONE CAME HERE TO HIDE THEIR DIRTY MAGAZINES OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
IT WAS AN ADULT.
HE KICKED A BOX...
...LIKE HE WAS ANGRY.
SHALL WE OPEN IT?
GACHA (CLATTER)
DOSASA (THUMP)
HOPEFULLY IT'S JUST DIRTY MAGAZINES.
DOSA

.....
WHAT IS THIS?

I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW IMMEDIATELY WHAT THEY WERE FOR.

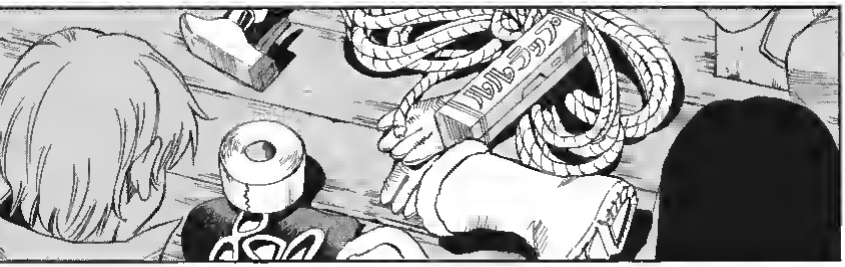
AND IT FINALLY DAWNED ON ME THAT THE SERIAL KILLER'S SECOND VICTIM, AYA NAKANISHI, IS A STUDENT HERE AT IZUMI ELEMENTARY.

BOX KURU WRAP



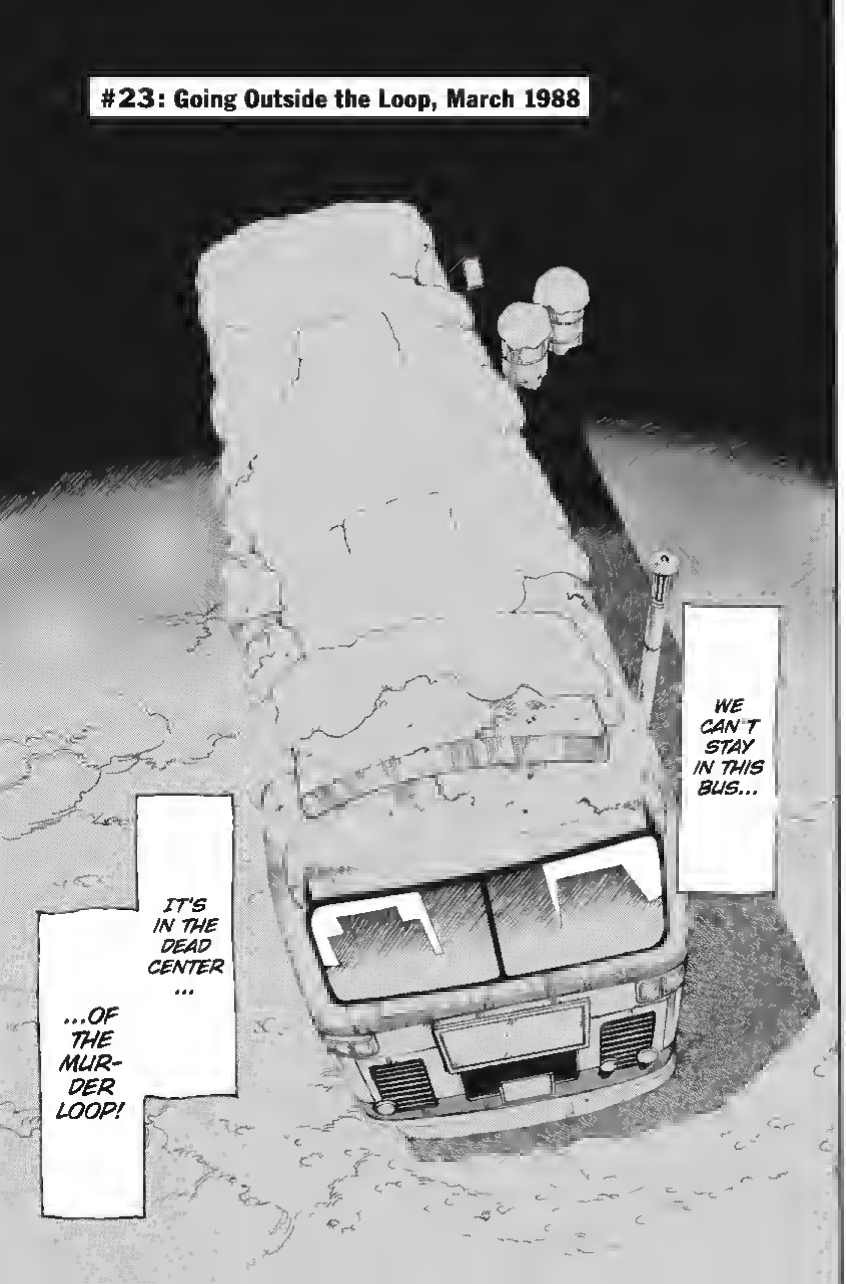
WE WERE STILL WITHIN THE LOOP OF THE ABDUCTION MURDERS.

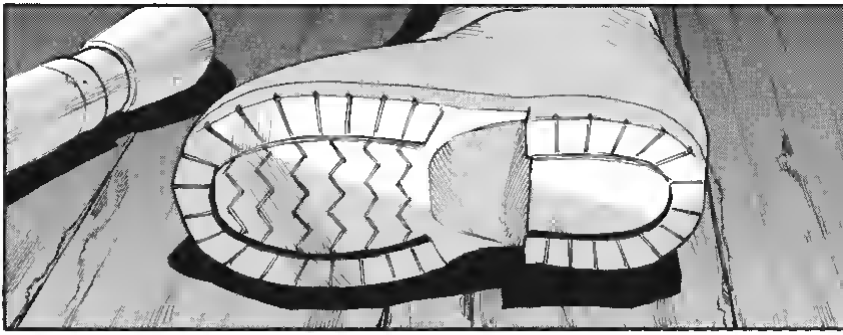
#22 END



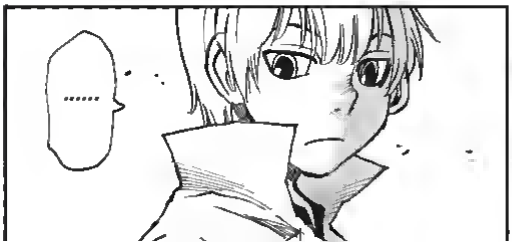
ON MARCH 2 BETWEEN 10 AND 11 P.M...
...KAYO HINAZUKI WAS ABDUCTED FROM THE STORAGE SHED BEHIND HER HOME.

...BELONGING TO THE SHIRATORI FAMILY.
FOOTPRINTS LEFT AROUND THE SHED MATCHED RUBBER BOOTS...
RIGHT SHELVES: FROZEN / LEFT SHELVES: SHIRATORI FOODS
白鳥食品
白鳥食品
...TO MAKE HER FREEZE TO DEATH MORE QUICKLY.
THE CULPRIT USED A SPRAY IN THE SHIRATORI FOODS COLD STORAGE ROOM...
...RETURNED HER FROZEN BODY TO THE SHED.
THEN BEFORE DAWN...
.....


#23: Going Outside the Loop, March 1988
WE CAN'T STAY IN THIS BUS...
IT'S IN THE DEAD CENTER ...
...OF THE MUR-DER LOOP!



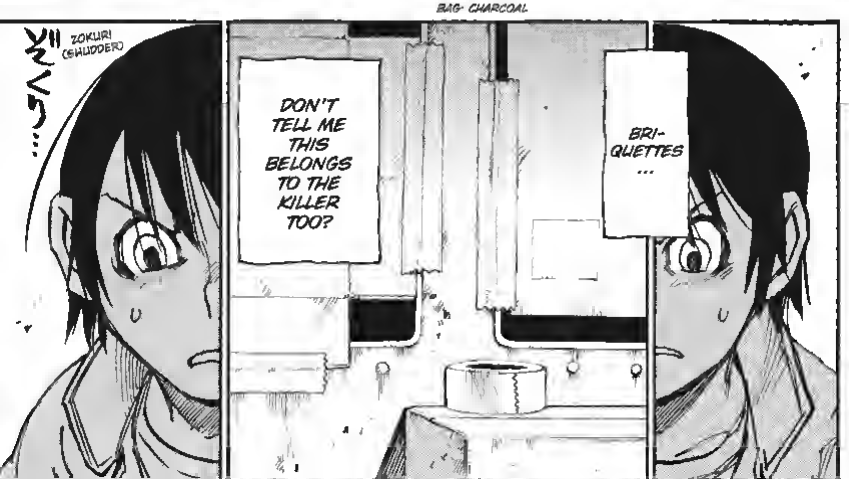
.....
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.


.....

Y-YEAH...
WE WANTED HINA TO BE FOUND...
...BUT THIS IS KIND OF CREEPY. ALL THIS STUFF...
WE CAN'T HAVE A PERVERT FIND HER.
RIGHT!
SATO-RU...
DO YOU HAVE A PLAN B?
.....
...I DO!
OKAY.
THEN LET'S PULL UP STAKES!
YEP.
GATA
GATA GATAN!
GATA

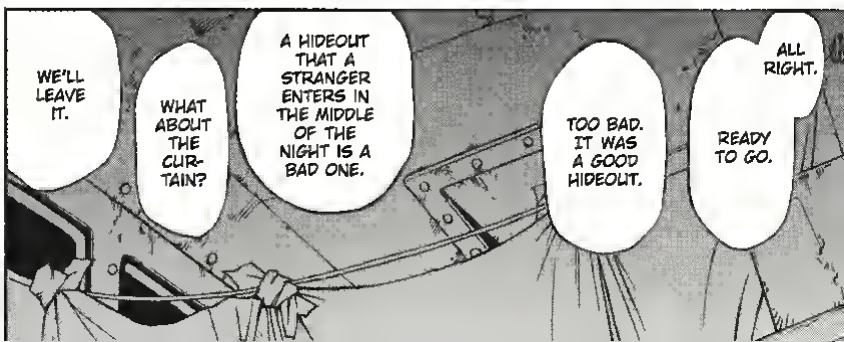
どす
DOSU (PANTING?)
RE-MEM-BER THIS.
HIS FOOT-PRINT!
.....?

BAG- CHARCOAL



SATO-RU...
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
AH...
BIRI
BIRI (RIP)

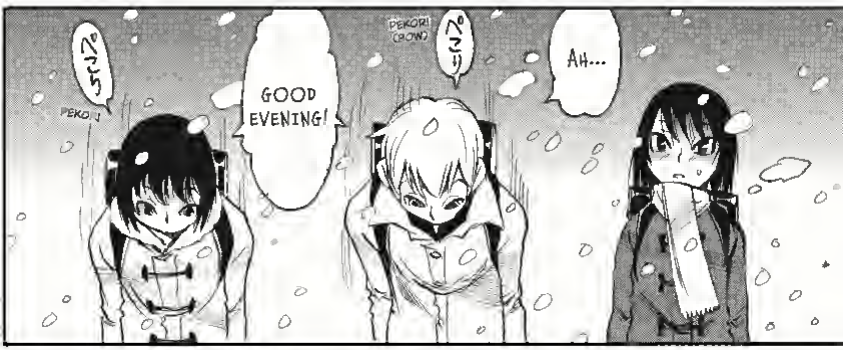
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT.
.....
THAT'S RIGHT...WHAT GOOD DOES LOSING MY HEAD DO?


WE'LL LEAVE IT.
WHAT ABOUT THE CUR-TAIN?
A HIDEOUT THAT A STRANGER ENTERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT IS A BAD ONE.
TOO BAD. IT WAS A GOOD HIDEOUT.
ALL RIGHT.
READY TO GO.

RIGHT NOW...
...WHATEVER IT TAKES...
...WE NEED TO GET KAYO FAR FROM THE LOOP OF MURDERS.
...EVEN IF BY FORCE...
THROUGH OUR ACTIONS, THE FUTURE IS DEFINITELY CHANGING.
IT WILL WORK OUT.
THE CHILDREN'S WELFARE CENTER IS INVOLVED NOW TOO.

SATORU ...
THIS IS YOUR PLAN B?
SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH.
SIGN MILK
...ONE MORE STEP.
LET'S TAKE...

GACHA
OKCHAKO
I'M HOME!
...THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD APPROACH!?
AFTER ALL THIS...
PON
PON
WELCOME HOME.


PEKO...!
GOOD EVENING!
PEKORI (CLOWN)
AH...

PEKORI

EXPLAIN.
SATORU.

DOKI
DOKI
.....
DOKI (BADUM)
GOKU (GULP)
MOM...
I DIDN'T WANT TO GET YOU INVOLVED IN THIS EITHER...
.....
...BUT...
...WHEN I REFUSED TO ABANDON HER...
...THIS IS WHAT HAP-PENED.

びくっ…
BIKU (FLINCH)
すっ
SU (SNIFF)
…KIDS.
WELL DONE…

COME ON, I WOULDN'T SCOLD YOU FOR THIS.
...ALTHOUGH I FIGURED I'D GET CHEWED OUT FIRST...
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT YOU'D SAY.
I SAID THAT OUT LOUD...
...ALTHOUGH I FIGURED I'D GET CHEWED OUT FIRST...
...FOR A FRIEND.
YOU DID IT...

...BUT IS THIS...?
SO I'VE NOTICED THIS SMELL SINCE I OPENED THE DOOR...
...SO I MADE CURRY.
...HOW MANY GUESTS WE'D HAVE...
I FIGURED YOU WOULD BE HOME SOON, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW...
...THAT TRANS-PARENT?
WAS I...
THANK YOU!
THANKS FOR HAVING US!
YAY!
COME IN AND HAVE SOME CURRY.
THE REST OF YOU, DON'T JUST STAND THERE.

WELL, CURRY IS GOOD FOR DAYS, RIGHT?
...WITH ALL THIS CURRY?
IF NOBODY ELSE HAD COME, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE...
IT WAS DELICIOUS.
THANK YOU.
UM... HERE.
AH...
I DON'T MEAN THE DISHES!
I KNOW, MOM.
WELL, LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

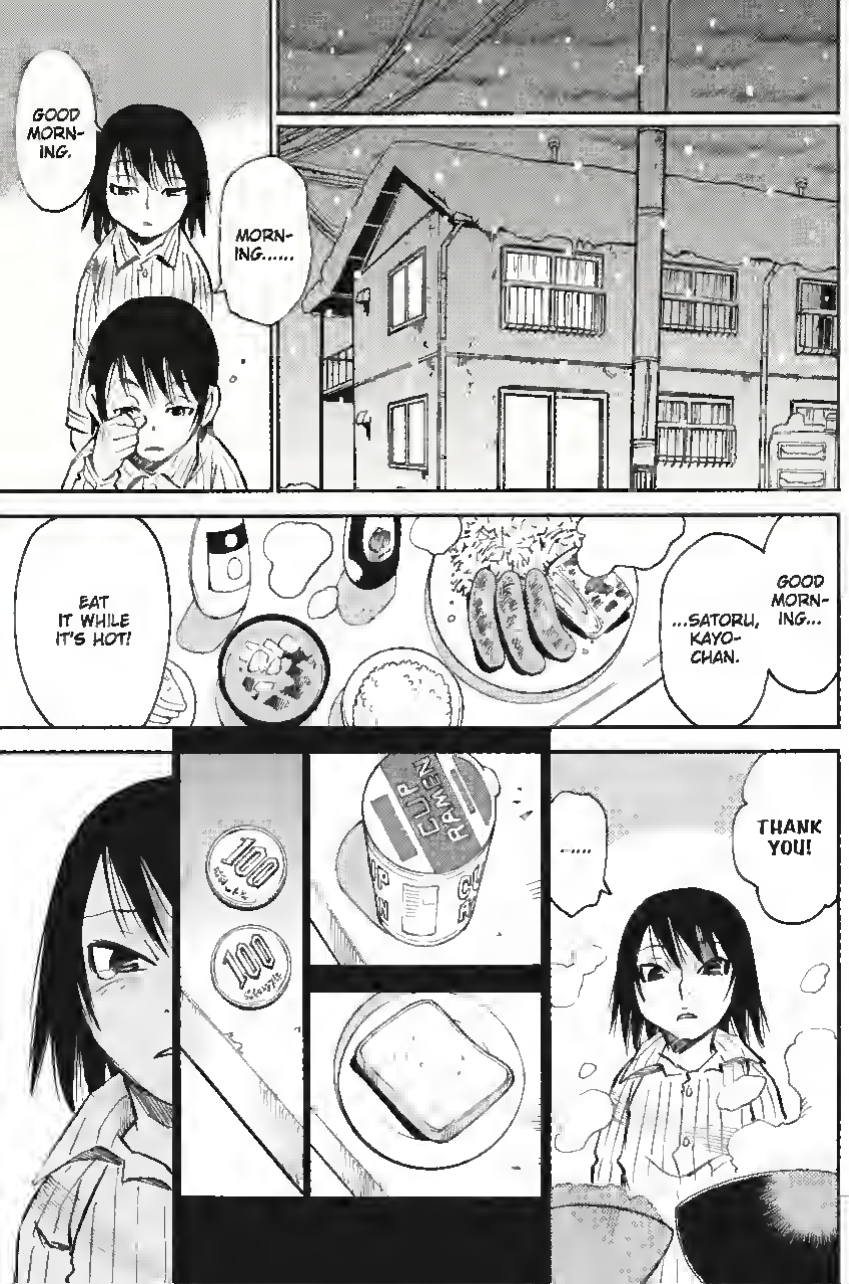
HELLO?
THIS IS SATORU FUJI-NUMA'S MOTHER.
YASHIRO-SENSEI...
SATORU AND KAYO-CHAN...
...CAME BACK TO MY HOUSE.
.....
IS THAT RIGHT?
.....
THAT'S GREAT.
.....
I FIGURED AS MUCH.

I SUP-
POSE...
...KAYO-
CHAN...
...WILL
HAVE TO BE
SENT TO AN
ORPHAN/GE
SOMEWHERE?
GOOD
QUES-
TION.
I DO
HAVE AN
IDEA
ABOUT
THAT.
RIGHT.
I COULDN'T
SEE KAYO'S
MOTHER.
SO I
HAVE A
FAVOR
TO ASK
YOU...
...FUJI-
NUMA-
SAN...
UNDER-
STOOD.
THEN
TOMOR-
ROW...
...AT
7:00.
CHIN
CDIN(G)

KAYO-CHAN.
YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT HERE.
KATA
KATA
KATA-KATTAO
KACHA
CCHAKO
HELLO?
I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING SO LATE.
I'M GAKU YASHI-RO...
I'M A TEACHER AT MIKOTO ELEMEN-TARY.

FEELS LIKE WE'RE ON A CLASS TRIP.
SA-TORU, THAT'S SLOPPY!
PULL THAT END MORE.
HERE'S A CLEAN SHEET.
LISE THIS.
BASA
BASA (RUSTLE)
FOR THE SCHOOL TRIP...
...WE WENT TO HAKO-DATE.
THE VIEW FROM MOUNT HAKO-DATE...
...AT NIGHT IS BEAUTI-FUL.
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO HAKODATE.
!
CRAP...
I MEAN..
I JUST SAW IT IN A PHOTO...

AM I IN THE WAY HERE?
GON (ONOMO)
ごん
YOU SAID "YEAH"!?
Ow!
GABA (BOLT)
かばっ
N-NO. OF COURSE NOT...
YEAH.


GOOD MORNING.
MORNING.....
GOOD MORNING...
...SATORU, KAYO-CHAN.
EAT IT WHILE IT'S HOT!
CUP RAMEN
100
100
.....
THANK YOU!

I THINK FOR KAYO...
...A BREAKFAST LIKE THIS WAS SOMETHING SHE'D ONLY EVER SEEN ON TV BEFORE.
HUH?
WHAT ABOUT THE CURRY?
THAT'S YOUR DINNER, SATORU... FOR THE NEXT...
...SEVERAL DAYS.
EHH!?
KACHA (KCHAK)
カチャ
WHOA!
THERE'S STILL A TON LEFT!
YOU CAN INVITE EVERYONE OVER AGAIN.

5-5
5-6

BASHI (WHACK)
DON (BANG)
BASA (FLAP)
YOU...
DAMN YOU!!
GASA
GASASA (SHUFF)
YOU...
BASA
YOU...!
GASHA (SMASH)
DAMN YOU!!
GACHA (CHUCK)
KAYO ...!
MOM...
PIN PON (DING-DONG)

KAYO !!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN...
...FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS!?
YOU ...!

SO YOU WERE THE ONES BEHIND THIS...!
Y-YOU TWO...!
YOU MADE ME SO WORRIED ABOUT HER...!
WHAT THE HELL!?
HIDING SOMEONE ELSE'S DAUGHTER!?
...BECAUSE I'M GOING TO SUE!
BE PREPARED...

THESE PAST THREE DAYS...
...HAVE YOU...
...LOOKED FOR KAYO-CHAN EVEN ONCE?
HUH?
EXCUSE ME?
WHAT?
ARE YOU...
...TRYING TO PAINT ME AS THE BAD GUY!?
Y...
YOU GO TO HELL!
YOU...
GA (GRAB)

LET GO OF ME, IDIOT!
KAYO ...!
"MADE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HER"?
...ABOUT YOUR-SELF.
YOU WERE ONLY WORRIED...
#23 END

#24: Mother and Mother, March 1988

FORM: OFFICIAL DIVORCE REGISTRATION; MAY 19, 1982; OBIHIRO, HOKKAIDO

SIGNATURES: KAZUO TAKASHIMA, AKEMI TAKASHIMA

KAYO...
...WE'LL BE FINE NOW.
OKAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
...DO WHAT THAT MAN SAYS ANYMORE.
OKAY.
FROM NOW ON...
...YOU JUST HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY.
OKAY.

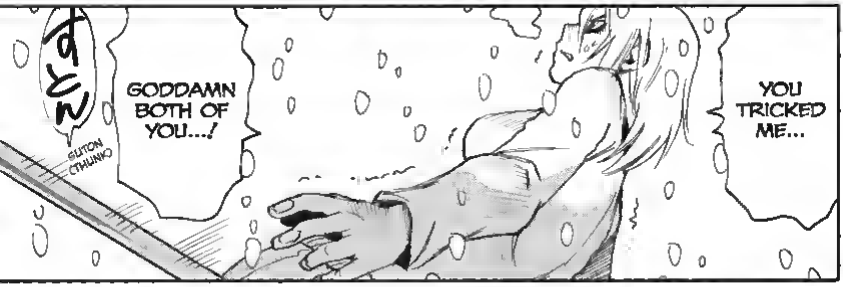
LET GO OF ME...
...RIGHT NOW!
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KAYO?
...IGNORING ME!?
ARE YOU...

YOU...
WHAT DO HAVE YOU PUT...
...IN MY KAYO'S HEAD!?
...KAYO'S MOTHER CONTINUED TO SHOUT ABUSE AT MOM AND ME.
RAGING AGAINST HER DAUGHTER'S FIRST (PROBABLY) SIGN OF REBELLIOUSNESS...

KAYO-CHAN...
...DOESN'T WANT TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.
THAT'S ENOUGH...
...HINA-ZUKI-SAN.
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE...
...KID-NAPPING SOME-BODY'S DAUGH-TER!?
TREATING ME LIKE A BAD GUY IN FRONT OF KAYO!
HOW ABOUT YOU!?
WHAT KIND OF PARENT THROWS HER DAUGHTER IN A SHED...
...AND DOESN'T DO ANYTHING WHEN SHE'S GONE THREE DAYS!?
SHUT UP!!
BUCHI (SNAP)

...SO YOU SHUT YOUR SMART MOUTH!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THE PAINS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A PARENT, BRAT...
YOU ARE AKEMI HINAZUKI-SAN?
YOU...
...EH?
WE'RE WITH THE ISHIKARI SUB-PREFECTURAL BUREAU'S CHILDREN'S WELFARE DIVISION.

WE'VE COME TO DIS-CUSS...
...YOUR DAUGHTER KAYO-CHAN WITH YOU.


YOU TRICKED ME...
GODDAMN BOTH OF YOU...!
SUTON (THUNK)

I HIT HER ...!?
!

HOW FAR IS SHE GONNA TAKE THIS INNOCENT WOMAN ACT...!?
MUKA
MUKA (RAGE)
MUKA
MUKA
IT SEEMED YOU WOULDN'T AGREE TO MEET WITH US...
...SO WE ENLISTED FUJINUMA-SAN'S COOPERATION.
WHO EVER SAID...
...I WOULDN'T MEET YOU!?
PLEASE FORGIVE MY PRESUMPTUOUSNESS.
SORRY ...
...I ASKED YOU TO DO THIS...
NOT AT ALL, YASHIRO-SENSEI.
I HAD A FEW WORDS FOR HER TOO...
...SO I'M ACTUALLY GRATEFUL THAT I COULD HELP.

MM?
OH CRAP ...
PLEASE LET US SPEAK WITH YOU AS WELL.
AH! YOU TOO, SIR!
...WHO HELPED KAYO'S MOM BEAT HER UP!
THAT'S THE BAS-TARD...

...FOR ABDUCTING MY DAUGHTER!
THEY'RE THE CRIMI-NALS...
CALL THE COPS!

...YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH YOUR CHILD.
NO, WE'RE HERE TO DISCUSS...

WHAT ABOUT MY RELATION-SHIP WITH KAYO!?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...!?

WE'VE DECIDED THAT YOUR DAUGHTER, KAYO-CHAN, NEEDS TO BE...
...TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
CUS-TODY ...!?
I'M HER GUARDIAN!
YOU REVOKED YOUR GUARDIANSHIP BY FAILING TO EVEN LOOK FOR YOUR DAUGHTER...
...WHEN SHE WENT MISSING FOR THREE DAYS.
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT BRAT OVER THERE...!
WHY ARE YOU TREATING ME LIKE A CRIMINAL!?
ARE YOU TRYING TO ENTRAP ME...!?
AKEMI!

AKEMI
...
...
MOM
...?

I'M SORRY.
ZA (CHFF)
WE'VE BEEN ESTRANGED EVER SINCE I MADE YOU...
...BREAK UP WITH KAYO'S FATHER...
...BUT I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND KAYO...
...ALL THIS TIME...

I KNOW VERY WELL HOW HARD IT IS FOR A WOMAN...
...TO RAISE A CHILD ON HER OWN.
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SO LONELY.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.
I SHOULD HAVE HELPED YOU.
I SHOULD HAVE FACED UP TO HIM WITH YOU.
BUT INSTEAD I MADE YOU...
...TAKE ALL OF IT ON BY YOURSELF.

EVERY-ONE...
THIS IS MY FAULT.
PLEASE DON'T BLAME AKEMI...

AAH...
MOM ...!
MOM ...!!

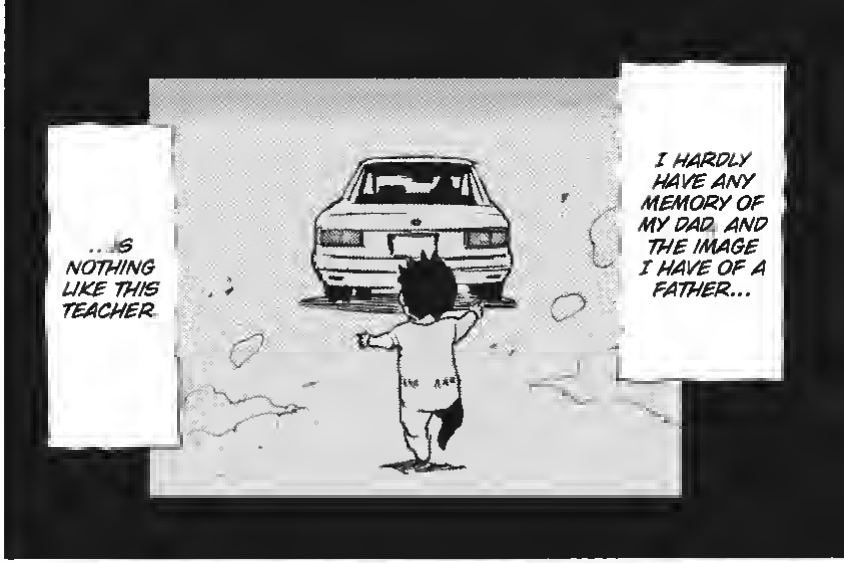
KAYO'S MOTHER WAS CLINGING TO HER OWN MOTHER...
...AND CRYING OUT OF...
...SELF-PITY.
KAYO WASN'T MOVED, THOUGH.
SHE WOULDN'T LOOK AT HER WEEPING MOTHER.

AKEMI ...
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT KAYO.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

...I HAVE IN THIS WORLD.
MY CHILD IS THE MOST PRECIOUS THING...
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER.
...THE SAME WAY AT SOME POINT.
YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT...

NOT AT ALL...
THANK YOU, SENSEI.
...SA-TORU.
...WAS YOU...
THE ONE WHO GOT US ADULTS IN GEAR...

YOUR HEROIC EFFORTS JUST COULDN'T...
...END IN TRAGEDY.
NOW KAYO...
...WILL BE OKAY.



BUT I WONDER IF FATHERS TALK LIKE THIS.

Thank you for the meals!
Next time I want to
cook with you!
Kayo

COULD I DO THE SAME THING?
THE PURE WHITE SNOW REPAINTED EVERYTHING.
52
4-10

THE FUTURE IS A BLANK SLATE.
ONLY ONE'S CHOICES ...
...CAN MAKE A MARK ON IT.
I HAVE FAITH THAT THE FUTURE KAYO FACES NOW IS A HAPPY PLACE.

ERASED ❷ END

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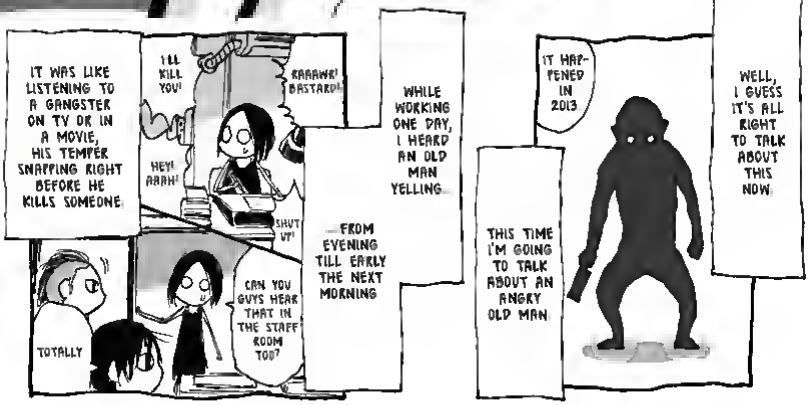
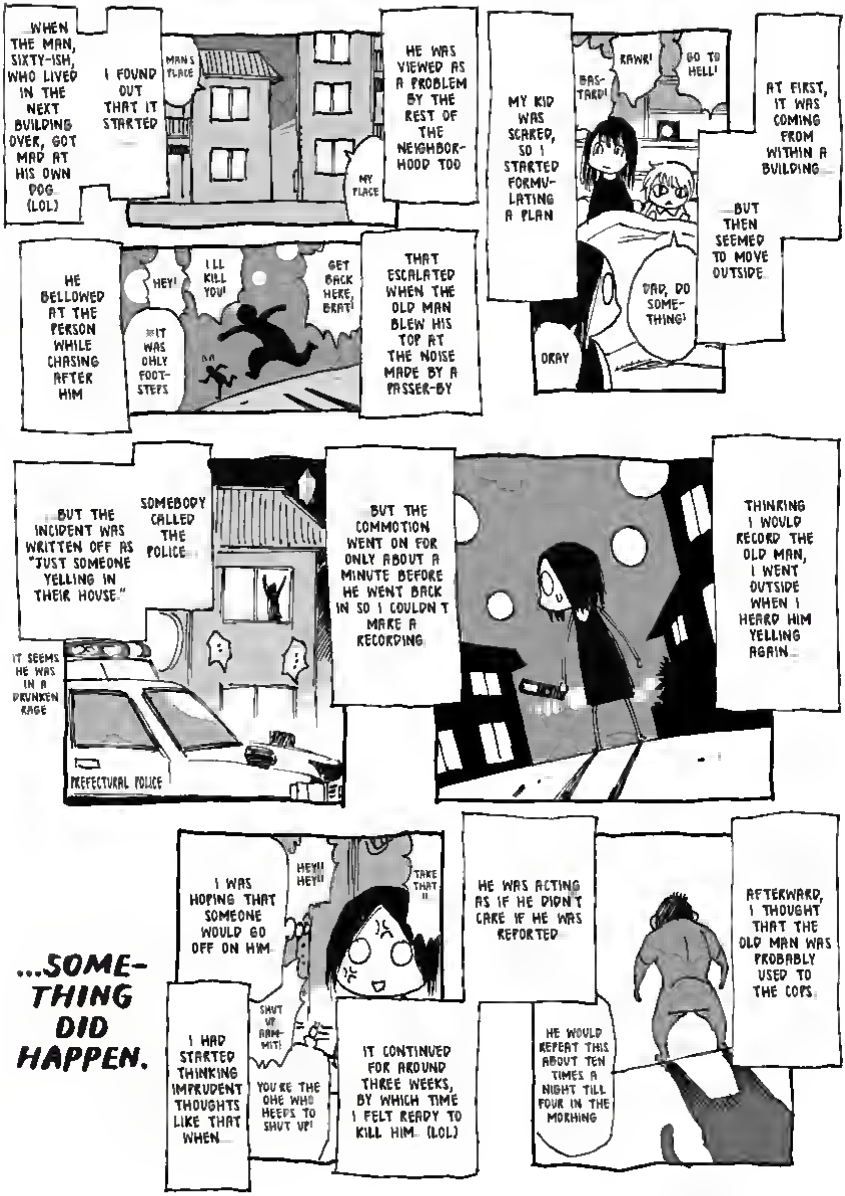
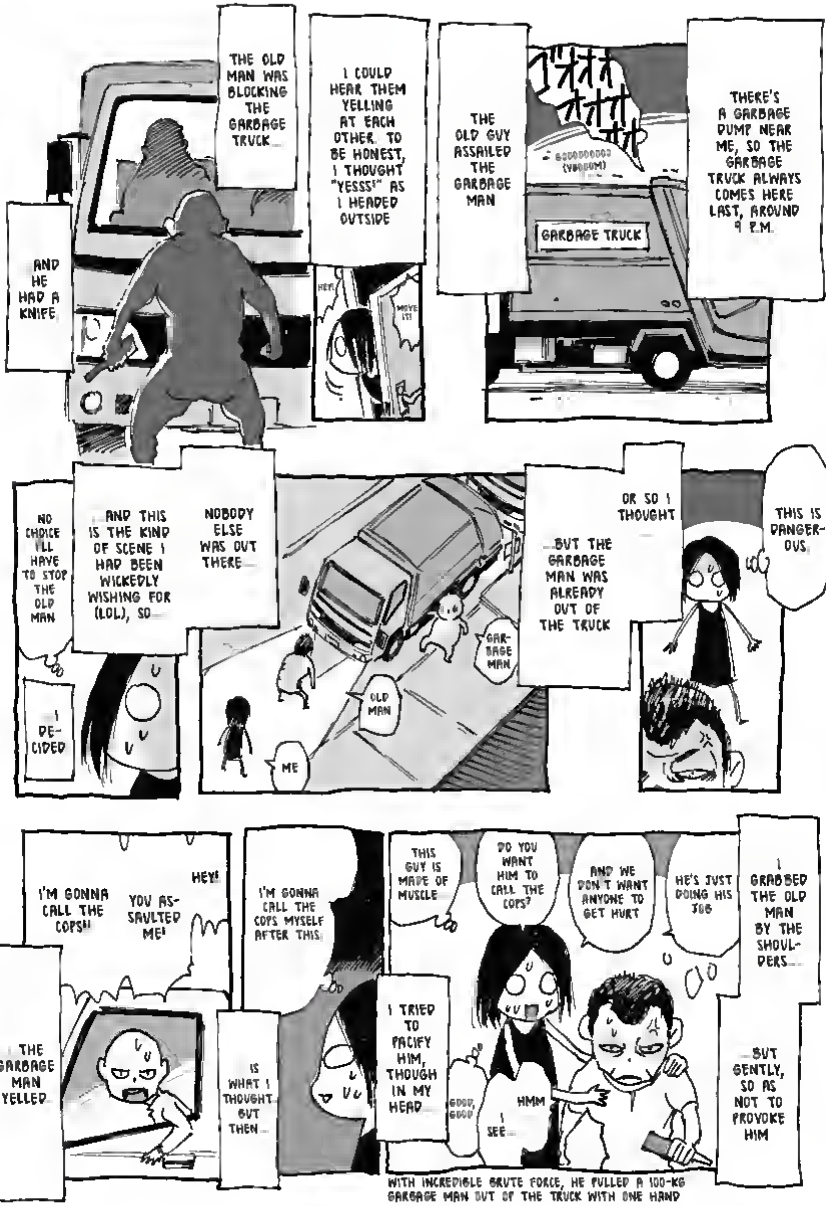
STRANGE, EVERYDAY LIFE

'14 4 ①




...WHEN THE MAN, SIXTY-ISH, WHO LIVED IN THE NEXT BUILDING OVER, GOT MAD AT HIS OWN DOG (LOL)
I FOUND OUT THAT IT STARTED
MAN'S PLACE
MY PLACE
HE WAS VIEWED AS A PROBLEM BY THE REST OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD TOO
MY KID WAS SCARED, SO I STARTED FORMULATING A PLAN
BAS-TARD!
RAWR!
GO TO HELL!
OKAY
DAD, DO SOMETHING!
AT FIRST, IT WAS COMING FROM WITHIN A BUILDING...
...BUT THEN SEEMED TO MOVE OUTSIDE...
HE BELLOWED AT THE PERSON WHILE CHASING AFTER HIM
HEY!
I'LL KILL YOU!
GET BACK HERE, BRAT!
...IT WAS ONLY FOOTSTEPS
THAT ESCALATED WHEN THE OLD MAN BLEW HIS TOP AT THE NOISE MADE BY A PASSER-BY
...BUT THE INCIDENT WAS WRITTEN OFF AS "JUST SOMEONE YELLING IN THEIR HOUSE."
SOMEBODY CALLED THE POLICE...
IT SEEMS HE WAS IN A DRUNKEN RAGE
PREFECTURAL POLICE
BUT THE COMMOTION WENT ON FOR ONLY ABOUT A MINUTE BEFORE HE WENT BACK IN SO I COULDN'T MAKE A RECORDING
THINKING I WOULD RECORD THE OLD MAN, I WENT OUTSIDE WHEN I HEARD HIM YELLING AGAIN...
...SOMETHING DID HAPPEN.
I WAS HOPING THAT SOMEONE WOULD GO OFF ON HIM...
HEY!! HEY!!
TAKE THAT!!
SHUT UP, BAKA-MITI!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO SHUT UP!
I HAD STARTED THINKING IMPRUDENT THOUGHTS LIKE THAT WHEN...
IT CONTINUED FOR AROUND THREE WEEKS, BY WHICH TIME I FELT READY TO KILL HIM. (LOL)
HE WAS ACTING AS IF HE DIDN'T CARE IF HE WAS REPORTED
HE WOULD REPEAT THIS ABOUT TEN TIMES A NIGHT TILL FOUR IN THE MORNING
AFTERWARD, I THOUGHT THAT THE OLD MAN WAS PROBABLY USED TO THE COPS.


THERE'S A GARBAGE DUMP NEAR ME, SO THE GARBAGE TRUCK ALWAYS COMES HERE LAST, AROUND 9 P.M.
GARBAGE TRUCK
THE OLD GUY ASSAILED THE GARBAGE MAN
I COULD HEAR THEM YELLING AT EACH OTHER. TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT "YESSS!" AS I HEADED OUTSIDE
HEY!
MOVE IT!
THE OLD MAN WAS BLOCKING THE GARBAGE TRUCK...
AND HE HAD A KNIFE
THIS IS DANGER-OUS
OR SO I THOUGHT
...BUT THE GARBAGE MAN WAS ALREADY OUT OF THE TRUCK
GAR-BAGE MAN
OLD MAN
ME
NOBODY ELSE WAS OUT THERE...
...AND THIS IS THE KIND OF SCENE I HAD BEEN WICKEDLY WISHING FOR (LOL), SO...
NO CHOICE I'LL HAVE TO STOP THE OLD MAN
I DE-CIDED
I GRABBED THE OLD MAN BY THE SHOUL-DERS...
...BUT GENTLY, SO AS NOT TO PROVOKE HIM
HE'S JUST DOING HIS JOB
AND WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO GET HURT
DO YOU WANT HIM TO CALL THE COPS?
THIS GUY IS MADE OF MUSCLE
I TRIED TO PACIFY HIM, THOUGH IN MY HEAD...
GOOD, GOOD
I SEE...
HMM
IS WHAT I THOUGHT BUT THEN...
I'M GONNA CALL THE COPS MYSELF AFTER THIS
HEY!
YOU AS-SAULTED ME!
I'M GONNA CALL THE COPS!!
THE GARBAGE MAN YELLED
WITH INCREDIBLE BRUTE FORCE, HE PULLED A 100-KG GARBAGE MAN OUT OF THE TRUCK WITH ONE HAND

THEY DID TAKE HIM AWAY, THOUGH
IN THE END, THE POLICE ARRIVED AFTER THE OLD MAN FLED INSIDE
I'M EXHAUST-ED...
I'M CALL-ING THEM RIGHT NOW!
WHAT WAS THAT, YOU SON OF A BITCH?
CALL THE COPS, BUT DON'T TELL HIM!
-KZK-
THE OLD MAN BLEW A GAS-KET.
BUT OTHER PEOPLE IN THE HOOD MOVED BECAUSE OF HIM TOO (I THINK).
I'M SURE HE'S UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS WHEREVER HE MOVED TO...
AND I GOT A FAKE METAL SWORD AFTER HE WAS TAKEN IN BY THE POLICE BUT BEFORE HE MOVED
...AND SOON AFTER THAT, THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY HAD HIM FORCIBLY EVICTED
FOUR OR FIVE DAYS LATER, THE POLICE WERE CALLED ABOUT HIM AGAIN...
HE WAS HOLDING IT LIKE THIS.
HOME-MADE SCAB-BARD
...SO THE OLD MAN WAS BACK THE NEXT DAY.
THE KNIFE WAS "SHEATHED" AND HE DIDN'T SAY, "I'M GONNA KILL YOU"...
SEE YOU AGAIN
EVERYONE BE CAREFUL AROUND PEOPLE WHO BRANDISH KNIVES (GOES WITHOUT SAYING)
BUT NOW THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD IS AT PEACE.
WHAT I LEARNED:
DON'T GO OUTSIDE, JUST CALL THE POLICE FROM INSIDE. IF YOU GET STABBED, ALL WILL BE FOR NAUGHT.

Translation notes

Common Honorifics

no honorific. Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific

-sama: Conveys great respect, may also indicate the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls, also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender

-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals

Currency Conversion

While conversion rates fluctuate daily, an easy estimate for Japanese Yen conversion is ¥100 to 1 USD.

Page 219

Okonomiyaki: A grilled pancake- or omelet-like dish that may include a variety of savory ingredients, depending on the region of Japan.

Page 238

New teacher: Generally middle school students have the same main "homeroom" teacher for all three years (the equivalent of U.S. grades 7-9)

Page 244

Swear word: Literally, the dialogue translates as "the first time I heard him speak with dialect (as opposed to standard Japanese)," but this doesn't come across well in translation. He really ends his last exclamation with ***-ishe***, which is an ending specific to Hokkaido dialect.

Local dialect: As noted in the previous volume, standard Japanese is taught in schools and used on TV, as well as for all official matters. Hence Satoru (as a child) considered Yuuki's usual "affected" standard Japanese manner of speech to sound mature and authoritative. In this scene, however, Yuuki was so pleased with Kayo's social improvement that he "let his guard down" and spoke using his natural local accent.

Page 275

"'Kayo'? Geez, man.": Here Kenya teases Satoru for not using an honorific with Kayo's name, which can indicate a close casualness (Kenya, Satoru, and their group only use given names without honorifics for one another) and gives the impression of being cool in a mature sort of way.

Page 339

"For the school trip, we went to Hakodate.": A slipup on Satoru's part, as school trips are a high school activity. Hakodate is an old port city in Hokkaido with Western-style buildings and amazing night views. The third-largest city in Hokkaido, it's been a hub for trade with other countries since the late 1800s.

erased

ERASED 4

KEI SANBE

Translation: Sheldon Drzka
Lettering: Abigail Blackman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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